



# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

---



---

*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

JUNE 1977

VOLUME 33

NUMBER 2

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

STATE OFFICERS FOR MAY 7, 1977 TO MAY 6, 1978

President: Lt.Col. William G. Bodenstein, 1275 River Rd, Crownsville 987-4658  
First V.P.: Mr. Charles Vaughn, 1306 Frederick Ave, Salisbury 21801 742-7221  
Second V.P: Dr. Benjamin Poscover, 302-A Garden Rd., Baltimore 21204 823-2548  
Treasurer: Mr. W. Gordon MacGregor, 5009 Greenleaf Rd, Balto 21210 435-3044  
Secretary:  
Exec.Secretary: Mrs. Helen M. Ford, 408 Beach Drive, Annapolis 21403 267-8417

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Bystrak	110 Linda Lane, Millersville 21108	923-6875
Miss Martha Chestem	10105 Windstream Drive, Columbia 21044	730-1527
Mr. John Cullom	437 Paradise Ave., Baltimore 21228	747-5870
Mr. Eldred Johnson	Franklin & Chapman Rds., Upper Falls 21156	592-7809
Mrs. Lee Meinersmann	305 Central Ave., Laurel, Del. 19956	302-875-5058
Mr. Edward Peters	5 Plum Tree Lane, Williamsport 21795	223-8540
Mr. August Selckmann	Route 2, Box 212, Frederick 21701	874-2515

STATE TRUSTEES

Allegany:	*Mr. Robert J. Hiegel Mrs. Robert J. Hiegel Mr. John Willetts	Harford:	*Mr. Eldred Johnson Col. Leland Devore Mr. John Wortman
Anne Arundel:	*Mr. James Cheevers Mr. John C. Ford, Jr. Dr. William Battin	Howard:	*Mrs. Lucille Peters Miss Martha Chestem
Baltimore:	*Mr. John Cullom Mrs. C. Lockard Conley Mrs. Raymond Geddes Mrs. Martin Larrabee Mrs. Edward A. Metcalf Dr. Benjamin Poscover Mr. Chandler S. Robbins Dr. Alan Ross Mrs. Joshua Rowe	Kent:	*Mr. Floyd Parks Mrs. Edward Mendinghall
		Montgomery:	*Miss Claudia P. Wilds Mrs. Lola Oberman Kathleen Klimkiewicz Mr. Philip A. DuMont
		Patuxent:	*Mr. Paul Bystrak Mr. Danny Bystrak
Caroline:	*Mr. Thomas A. Robbins Mr. Steven Westre	Talbot:	*Mr. G. Curtis Engel Mrs. Marian Delphey Dr. Robert W. Trever
Dorchester:	*Mr. Dale C. Price Mr. Milton Webster	Washington:	*Mrs. Marlin Thurmond Mr. Edward Peters
Frederick:	*Mrs. Phyllis Hodge Mr. August Selckmann	Wicomico:	*Mrs. Nancy Strahl Mrs. Lee Meinersmann
* Chapter President			

Active Membership (adults)	\$ 5.00 plus local chapter dues
Student Membership (full-time students)	2.00 plus local chapter dues
Junior Membership (under 18 years)	1.00 plus local chapter dues
Family Membership (Mr. & Mrs.)	6.00 plus local chapter dues
Sustaining Membership	10.00 plus local chapter dues
Life Membership	100.00 (payable in 4 annual installments)
Member-at-Large	5.00

Cover: Thin-billed Murre photographed at Ocean City, Md., on Dec. 29, 1976 by Richard A. Rowlett. See page 105.



## FIRST NESTING OF HOODED MERGANSER ON MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE

*Franklin Dale Loughry and Tad Wheatley*

While checking Wood Duck nesting boxes, May 3, 1977, on Millington Wildlife Management Area in Kent County we caught and banded a Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) hen setting a clutch of eggs. The method of capture was by stopping up the entrance hole of the box and removing the bird by hand. The hen was nesting in a tin Wood Duck nesting box on a dead persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*). The box was about seven feet above the surface of a woods pond approximately one-half acre in size on the Smith Farm section of the Management Area. A dense blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.) and pepperbush (*Clethra* spp.) thicket surrounds this pond and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) grows in the water. The pond is generally open overhead, the only trees in it being dead and half-dead persimmons.

The hen held close to the nest during the capture and after being banded and returned to the nesting box quickly settled down. After about twenty minutes the plug was removed from the entrance hole and the hen still did not attempt to escape, as is usually the case with Wood Ducks. There were eleven merganser eggs and one Wood Duck egg in the box. The hen was banded #805-15702 and recorded as an after-hatching-year female.

It is not known for sure if the merganser hatched out her brood successfully. We returned to the nesting site on May 31 and felt that the condition of the eggshells indicated a successful hatch. However, there were raccoon signs on the top of the box.

That same week (May 1-7, 1977) two adult male Hooded Mergansers were reported at Clarence Webb's aviary at Elkton, Maryland. In the course of checking other Wood Duck nesting boxes on the Millington Management Area, one other Hooded Merganser egg was discovered in a box in Cypress Branch, behind the Clough Farm section. In 1976 two eggs, with dead embryos, were discovered in a single box on Smith Farm, about one-half mile from this year's nesting site. This constitutes the first known nesting record of a Hooded Merganser on the Eastern Shore, but more of these birds may nest in this area than is generally believed.

Maryland Wildlife Administration,  
Church Hill, Md. and Betterton, Md.

## REPORT OF THE STATE-WIDE BIRD COUNT - MAY 7, 1977

*C. Douglas Hackman*

Aside from a few problems with rain, that ranged from light drizzle to heavy downpour, in the southern and western portions of the State, the 30th annual count day was a good one for birding. More than 436 observers devoted 1377.5 party-hours (866.5 on foot, 466.5 by car, 41.5 by boat and 3 by bike) and traveled 4586.5 party-miles (629 on foot, 3771 by car, 73 by boat and 12 by bike) to count and record about 165,963 individuals of 254 species.

From Garrett County came the exclamatory note, "FANTASTIC!! ... between 6 and 9 a.m. the birds were everywhere!" The exclamation was backed up by an excellent count total of 151 species for the day. From Queen Annes County came the word that the count was considered to be only "...an extraordinarily average day." Meanwhile Henry Armistead had doubled his forces for the annual twenty-hour blitz of Dorchester County and succeeded in routing out 158 species (the 5th highest count in 19 years). And in Baltimore County a number of observers, who were in for a surprise or two, ignored Horace Greeley's admonition to head West and found their fortune toward the East instead.

For many years the Eastern portion of Baltimore County has been virtually ignored by birders. Yet such seemingly unattractive places as the Back River Disposal Plant have recently proven to be avian gold mines, producing exciting finds that have added new species after new species to the Baltimore County list over the past year. A group of about 10 enthusiastic birders began by running numerous pre-count forays into the area in hopes of pinning down enough species to ensure a good count. They even succeeded in locating a small colony of Black Rails (reported years and years ago but long since forgotten). Naturally, they fully savored the impact of this exciting find but were to be disappointed because the rails perversely went into seclusion for the entire day. Although the birders had carefully scouted the area beforehand they were scarcely prepared for what followed. They located a group of 10 Chuck-will's-widows far outside of their normal range and then followed up with 3 Summer Tanagers. Two members of the group had what they described as "a fallout of warblers at North Point." They encountered wave after wave of migrants and recorded 29 species of warblers and 4 species of vireos. They tallied large numbers of certain species: 500 Black-throated Blues, 2000 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 75 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, etc. All of this activity was recorded in a small 1½-acre park where they spent the entire day. Just imagine their amazement at this migratory show since "...the whole reason we were at North Point was to watch for waterfowl!"

If such a rich area can exist in Baltimore County (a well-birded area on the outskirts of Baltimore City where there are more than 700 bird club members) and go undetected for such a long time, just think how many other really terrific areas there must be in the counties that

are seldom birded. Is it a fluke? Absolutely not! In nearby Carroll County the same group of birders has located another equally exciting hot spot around the Piney Run Reservoir area.

On this year's count day many hot spots were missed. No counts were made in either St. Marys or Talbot Counties and only from one to three observers were in the field in Carroll, Calvert, Charles, Cecil and Dorchester Counties. There isn't a county in the state that couldn't yield a count in the range of 115-140 species on the May Count with adequate coverage. Yet, as in recent years, this year's coverage was again spotty and uneven. There are still many fine areas in the well-covered as well as the lesser-covered counties just waiting to be staked out, explored and birded to their maximum potential. In the county lists that follow, the number of observers is indicated in parentheses:

Baltimore (56)	189	Caroline (39)	130
Anne Arundel (34)	174	Somerset (7+)	126
Worcester (25)	160	Kent (16)	123
Washington (18)	159	Charles (3)	119
Dorchester (3)	159	Queen Annes (9)	119
Montgomery (45)	158	Harford (6)	90
Howard (42)	154	Calvert (1)	81
Garrett (46)	151	Wicomico (18)	76
Prince Georges (14)	140	Carroll (3)	71
Frederick (16)	135	Cecil (1)	28
Allegany (34)	131		

In the report of the May 3, 1969 count (*Maryland Birdlife* 25:50-60) George Robbins included a table that showed the mean number of birds observed per 100 party-hours for each of the 14 years from 1956 to 1969. In his analysis of those totals he pointed out the dangers inherent in the use of such data since the counts are not standardized in coverage from year to year and effects of weather and other variables are not taken into account. Nevertheless, as he pointed out, such totals can be used as indicators to identify trends, either up or down, in the relative abundance of certain species, particularly for permanent resident species or those not at the peak of their migration.

In Table 1 those species marked with an asterisk appeared in the 1969 table. Means from the 14-year period 1956-69 have been averaged and appear in column 1. In column 2 have been listed the high and low means for the 1956-69 period. For species not covered by the 1969 table new means were computed for all years between 1956 and 1977.

In 1969 Mr. Robbins pointed out that, in spite of declines in New England, the Red-shouldered Hawk appeared to be holding its own in Maryland. He also observed that during the winter of 1957-58 the Eastern Bluebird population crashed dramatically. Pileated Woodpeckers were viewed as increasing slowly but steadily in population, 1956-69, especially after 1965. Mr. Robbins ended up by observing that the Wood Thrush had suffered a decline in population and only a partial recovery during the period and should be monitored in future years:

Table 1. Mean Number of Birds per 100 Party-hours

Species	14-year Average (1956-69)	High/Low Means (1956-69)	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
*Turkey Vulture	119	256/34	113	123	76	92	99	79	29	34
*Red-shld. Hawk	4	12/1	6	4	7	7	8	9	4	4
Osprey	23	57/11	38	22	28	18	13	17	9	9
*Bobwhite	92	145/55	112	98	81	64	65	76	58	66
Mourning Dove	128	175/102	163	164	167	180	136	154	161	176
B. Kingfisher	12	17/8	13	13	9	11	10	11	11	6
*Pileated Wdpk.	4	7/1	7	6	7	7	7	7	5	7
Downy Woodpr.	38	54/23	55	56	43	33	29	50	31	26
Carolina Chick.	78	118/56	100	106	93	109	83	112	97	63
Tufted Titmouse	95	118/73	112	109	110	107	98	97	84	75
*Carolina Wren	44	90/16	49	52	61	91	85	91	96	26
*Wood Thrush	114	157/68	103	31	97	68	69	107	92	143
*E. Bluebird	25	90/6	16	18	18	22	27	24	37	21
House Finch	0.5	0.8/0.2	5	2	7	2	2	5	9	10

Table 1 takes a further look at these as well as a few additional species. The Red-shouldered Hawk still appears to be holding its own in Maryland, although there has been a drop in the numbers recorded during the past two years. Pileated Woodpeckers increased in number around 1966 and have maintained that population level since then. After its serious decline to only 6 birds/100 party-hours in 1967 the bluebird has shown a slow but steady increase in numbers until this year. The slight drop in numbers this year is almost certainly a reflection of the severity of the recent winter. Finally, a look at the totals for the Wood Thrush indicates that this species is one whose numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year. It doesn't appear, after looking at 22 years of marked peaks and valleys, that this species is in any great danger at the moment.

One species that does appear to be in serious trouble is the Osprey. Over the past eight years the numbers have declined steadily. The current population appears to be at its lowest point since 1956. Two "disaster" species (see *Maryland Birdlife* 33, #1, March 1977) suffered a dramatic decline in their numbers this year. The Carolina Wren has been steadily increasing in numbers since about 1970, but this semi-hardy species was no match for the severe temperatures of the 1976-77 winter. The Belted Kingfisher also suffered a serious decline in population when its food supplies were shut off by the severe weather. Four species, Turkey Vulture, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Chickadee, appear to have declined in numbers over the past eight years, although none seems to be in serious trouble. One species appears to be exploding in Maryland. The House Finch was first recorded on the 1966 May Count and its numbers stayed relatively low until recently. The numbers observed per 100 party-hours for the past two years represent a considerable increase in population. Observers in all counties should be looking for this species so that its spread through Maryland can be adequately documented.

Of note on this years' count is the Northern Goshawk for Allegany County. Also of interest are the increasing numbers of exotic gulls appearing on the counts. One should expect to see increasing numbers of gulls on future counts simply because more and more people are looking at each gull that passes by with more than casual interest. Up until quite recently most people did not look hard at flocks of gulls and as a result few people noticed the rarities.

#### SUMMARY OF COVERAGE

GARRETT COUNTY (Gar). 45 observers. 3 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Lydia Beiler, Avis Bittinger, Nancy Brenneman, Marty Cook, Billie Cross, Alverta Dillon, Charlotte Folk, Ann and Alvin Friend, Lydia Geare, Harold Harman, Phillip Herrick, Sheila Hughes, Dotty and Dick Janney, Betty and Joe Johnenning, Gus Johnson, Emma Krause, Eva Kuhn, Grace Lichty, Dotty and Mark Malec, Bill and Nancy Nemith, Bill and Fran Pope, Elnora Schrock, Frances Smith, Lee Tackett, Billie Taylor, Sally Thayer, Hugh Trimble, John Trochet, Helen and Cindy Vitez, John Willets, Ester, Gary, Lowell, Moses and Weldon Yoder, John, Daisy and Sam Yoder.

ALLEGANY COUNTY (All). 34 observers. 4:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Helen Brake, Bill Devlin, Richard Douglas, Mr. & Mrs. William S. Eichelberger, Fr. Edward, Flo Griffin, Bob and Ethel Hiegel, Elyse Harmon, Philip Herrick, Ken Hodgdon, Jan Jansen, Mrs. June Leatherman, Bill Leeson, Tom Mathews, Lamar and Mary Minnick, Dorothea and Mark Malec, Shirley M. Mackerette, Bill and Jim Richmond, Grace Stark, Mary and Bill Twigg, Jay Walbert, Jim, Scott and Harriet Williams, Marty Zajdel, Harriet Sheetz, Betty Swadley, John Willets.

WASHINGTON COUNTY (Was). 18 observers. Randell Anderson, Laura Avant, Dan Boone, Marie Calhoun, Stephanie Castle, Don and Frances Cutchall, Ellen Edwards, Paul Guptill, Carl and Jeanette Hull, Robert and Mary Keedy, Cameron and Norma Lewis, Doris Ruthrauff, Carol Sheldon, Robert Stockslager.

FREDERICK COUNTY (Fre). 16 observers. Norman Chamberlin, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dapper, David Hansroth, Dr. Howard Hodge, Mrs. Phyllis Hodge, Kenneth Maize, Mrs. Carolyn Maize, William Meredith, Charles Mullican, Dr. John Richards, Ruth Richards, William Shirey, Stephan and Bob Whitrol.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Mon). 45 observers. 4 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Jackson Abbott, Robert Abbott, Maurice Allison, Louise Berry, Chip Bonde, Joy Bowen, Michael Bowen, Jeremy Brown, Robert Caswell, Reggy Cleveland, Alice Coleman, Paris Coleman, Barry Cooper, Richard Davids, Delores Grant, Mary Grant, Bob Hahn, Evan Hannay, Ives Hannay, Harry Hogan, Lester Holtschlag, Margaret Hunter, Vincent Jones, Barbara Lund, Lucy MacClintock, Nancy MacClintock, Stuart MacClintock, Minette McCullough, Micke Mehlman, Helen Meleney, Graham Metson, Marion Metson, Ann Mitchell, Harvey Mudd, Marion Mudd, John Norvell, Lola Oberman, Ted Oberman, Ella Pfieffer, Raymond Prybis, Les Roslund, Grace Sims, Thomas Valega, John Weske, Jim Wilkinson.

HOWARD COUNTY (How). 42 observers. 4:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Cynthia Bunnell, Martha Chestem, Eileen Clegg, John Clegg, Matt Conron,



Table 1. State-wide Bird Count

Species	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	CrI	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Common Loon	8	-	-	-	3	6	-	1	13	8	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	50
Horned Grebe	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	9
Pied-billed Grebe	2	-	6	1	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Double-crested Cormorant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	20	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	5	-	10	568	642
Great Blue Heron	4	3	3	6	8	2	1	4	46	46	-	68	24	-	32	25	14	32	-	13	11	342
Green Heron	9	2	15	31	17	14	-	-	46	11	1	17	10	-	1	11	9	21	-	25	15	255
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	9	17
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	39	5	5	-	-	-	-	10	1	36	5	13	16	131
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	-	1	5	-	1	2	-	30	6	17	70	146
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	50	-	23	83	163
Louisiana Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	6	9
Black-cr. Night Heron	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	16	34
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Least Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	10	113	130
Mute Swan	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	9
Whistling Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	11
Canada Goose	-	-	10	3	20	49	2	23	60	20	-	141	5	-	179	21	1	65	-	1	5	605
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	10
Blue Goose	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Mallard	27	8	166	39	66	72	5	2	173	57	-	47	23	2	350	21	29	56	2	6	19	1170
American Black Duck	-	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	9	9	-	14	2	-	1	9	11	55	-	25	27	170
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	6	4	24
Common Pintail	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	5
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	1	9
Blue-winged Teal	13	3	3	1	13	2	1	1	10	-	-	7	-	-	2	2	2	23	-	21	-	104
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	9	11	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	29
Wood Duck	27	18	44	42	60	8	-	11	90	9	-	66	14	-	36	4	16	17	3	-	2	467
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lesser Scaup	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	10
Scaup species	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bufflehead	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	19



	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Crl	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Hooded Merganser	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Merganser	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Red-breasted Merganser	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	4	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	28	51
Turkey Vulture	19	21	22	19	6	19	2	14	50	10	-	12	4	-	29	22	104	27	10	29	46	465
Black Vulture	-	-	6	18	1	1	-	-	7	2	-	11	1	-	2	2	1	-	-	4	5	61
Northern Goshawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Red-tailed Hawk	3	4	4	1	4	5	-	2	7	1	-	3	1	-	1	3	5	5	4	-	1	54
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	-	-	1	15	12	-	-	7	3	-	9	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	59
Broad-winged Hawk	2	1	8	2	-	5	-	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	13	-	-	-	18
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	8	1	2	-	16
Osprey	7	5	1	4	2	1	1	2	14	9	1	8	12	-	6	6	7	14	2	7	19	128
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
American Kestrel	5	1	8	9	2	7	-	3	12	-	-	2	1	-	4	6	12	-	1	-	2	75
Ruffed Grouse	22	4	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Common Bobwhite	3	26	79	20	49	61	2	4	85	100	9	26	21	1	60	61	156	51	19	53	27	913
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	-	41	41	6	17	9	1	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220
Wild Turkey	3	5	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	11
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	6	12
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	3	-	43
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	23
Black Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	12	-	15
Common Gallinule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	3	-	17
American Coot	64	3	2	1	9	1	-	-	3	5	-	7	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	9	110
American Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	34	35
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	11	-	14	33	66
Wilson's Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Killdeer	33	46	59	33	24	28	5	-	51	14	-	4	9	-	10	13	44	14	-	4	11	402
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	111	119
Upland Sandpiper	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Greater Yellowlegs	24	-	14	44	3	2	-	-	35	3	-	21	-	-	5	1	10	39	-	7	15	223
Lesser Yellowlegs	10	-	2	21	-	-	11	-	28	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	4	25	-	3	4	118
Solitary Sandpiper	12	26	7	122	21	35	4	-	162	28	-	32	4	4	1	1	4	9	-	-	4	476
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	50	384	473
Spotted Sandpiper	31	15	27	49	37	36	17	7	157	44	1	48	20	-	7	3	11	8	-	2	16	536

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Cr1	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	22
American Woodcock	4	1	5	4	1	2	-	-	55	24	2	7	1	-	6	1	3	19	-	7	-	142
Common Snipe	1	2	5	4	2	-	-	-	13	7	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	41
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	206	218
Sanderling	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	637	648
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	5	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	10	-	29	482	539
Western Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Least Sandpiper	1	2	11	67	-	1	5	-	93	10	-	116	2	-	27	9	12	225	-	47	25	653
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	6	68	-	-	-	5	53	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	40	-	7	4	184
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	-	35	224	355
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Greater Blk-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	8	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	5	-	1	10	47
Lesser Blk-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Herring Gull	-	36	-	-	-	-	6	2	2139	1141	3	2	2	-	366	202	-	113	25	61	42	4140
Ring-billed Gull	128	-	3	-	1	1	5	72	4147	3282	-	38	1008	-	302	519	4	55	21	71	137	9794
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2007	3708	18	5	106	-	35	242	153	216	83	191	433	7197
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	21	21	45
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	3	21	5	-	-	2	-	2	4	-	3	-	-	165	221
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	7	-	4	52	80
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	31
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	3	-	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	71
Rock Dove	10	-	488	35	61	300	5	-	1994	172	1	78	32	-	-	65	91	2	5	3	30	3372
Mourning Dove	42	49	264	99	220	319	6	20	404	226	8	68	113	3	88	118	237	52	20	29	33	2418
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	2	3	6	8	2	-	1	8	2	-	1	-	-	3	-	4	6	2	-	19	67
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	13
Barn Owl	1	-	1	1	-	3	-	1	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	-	25
Common Screech Owl	2	1	1	15	3	-	-	-	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	41
Great Horned Owl	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	20
Barred Owl	6	3	7	10	16	13	-	-	29	3	-	6	-	2	1	-	9	1	-	1	-	107
Chuck-will's-widow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	13	-	3	1	33
Whip-poor-will	7	3	8	20	3	8	-	-	57	21	2	7	-	-	-	-	12	21	1	6	4	180
Common Nighthawk	2	3	19	-	11	2	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	46
Chimney Swift	24	137	285	98	243	209	11	24	402	147	22	54	26	20	7	100	148	25	2	21	13	2018
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	7	3	6	2	14	11	1	2	12	13	2	4	3	-	7	9	6	2	-	6	6	116

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Crl	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Dor	Wic.	Som	Wor	Total
Belted Kingfisher	6	9	15	4	10	7	-	-	9	8	-	7	4	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	3	89
Common Flicker	39	44	75	28	42	52	-	6	101	49	1	15	4	1	33	13	25	20	2	12	22	584
Pileated Woodpecker	4	6	11	9	20	4	-	-	3	7	-	7	5	-	-	-	3	8	1	2	3	93
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	16	45	52	140	91	7	14	125	76	5	33	20	2	33	40	63	12	3	1	26	805
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	1	4	1	2	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	26
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Hairy Woodpecker	16	5	8	-	6	5	-	2	12	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	71
Downy Woodpecker	41	12	46	10	36	34	1	8	53	29	1	16	6	-	8	6	23	7	1	7	14	359
Eastern Kingbird	17	4	56	39	60	70	3	2	170	67	2	25	13	-	23	23	28	30	2	13	27	674
Great Crested Flycatcher	20	6	53	17	60	14	3	1	53	16	-	15	6	-	7	10	39	31	6	10	21	388
Eastern Phoebe	32	12	25	12	23	28	-	5	46	1	2	11	7	-	7	3	20	-	-	-	13	247
Acadian Flycatcher	5	1	5	1	110	20	1	3	21	12	-	6	7	-	1	2	13	1	1	2	13	225
Alder Flycatcher	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Least Flycatcher	6	1	2	-	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Eastern Pewee	2	4	3	4	34	9	-	-	10	9	3	3	5	-	2	6	11	7	-	-	7	119
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Horned Lark	8	-	4	-	10	8	-	-	2	1	-	4	-	-	-	8	103	7	-	-	2	157
Tree Swallow	179	8	162	42	151	52	18	-	1369	424	31	90	38	-	61	19	389	172	6	64	20	3295
Bank Swallow	16	11	15	2	50	10	-	-	1265	949	6	29	-	-	100	27	20	40	-	1	-	2541
Rough-winged Swallow	17	36	30	48	22	24	2	-	282	16	2	8	-	-	2	4	46	2	-	-	5	546
Barn Swallow	406	35	317	106	207	275	16	22	1137	304	30	211	110	18	196	114	355	143	32	199	293	4526
Cliff Swallow	56	1	90	4	2	7	60	-	220	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	445
Purple Martin	29	2	165	106	35	60	3	-	193	41	32	10	56	-	9	51	185	76	29	56	54	1192
Blue Jay	119	108	106	80	138	135	7	20	1748	836	11	26	30	1	46	102	235	26	15	20	103	3912
Northern Raven	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
American Crow	245	90	235	230	349	286	18	35	704	143	5	61	59	-	45	48	194	60	6	20	22	2855
Fish Crow	-	-	8	5	17	16	-	2	38	46	1	5	1	-	15	33	12	11	6	36	15	267
Black-capped Chickadee	137	17	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
Carolina Chickadee	-	-	45	38	123	133	2	11	186	88	5	35	22	2	22	18	65	18	9	16	35	873
Tufted Titmouse	38	12	106	49	146	124	4	6	176	71	4	31	19	2	17	22	87	13	5	7	88	1027
White-breasted Nuthatch	41	5	5	11	17	9	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	1	-	6	126
Red-breasted Nuthatch	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	17
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	4	10
Brown Creeper	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
House Wren	66	32	102	47	183	65	3	-	107	28	-	7	-	-	15	3	17	21	2	36	16	750
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bewick's Wren	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Carolina Wren	7	18	17	22	27	37	5	6	63	26	2	2	5	-	3	7	29	21	2	36	27	362

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	CrI	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	10	124	16	1	14	1	-	4	6	1	105	-	64	-	349
Sedge Wren	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	16
Northern Mockingbird	5	60	83	48	86	138	8	9	244	154	10	36	25	3	69	44	217	20	20	32	31	1342
Gray Catbird	136	78	162	46	257	422	6	28	473	159	13	88	20	-	93	42	104	29	4	55	86	2301
Brown Thrasher	18	30	132	17	29	46	3	5	47	60	3	11	10	-	48	19	73	9	2	12	9	583
American Robin	498	362	474	301	168	492	10	50	937	252	18	49	53	10	250	136	463	72	33	69	74	4771
Wood Thrush	120	63	117	69	258	207	5	9	366	188	15	62	61	-	91	75	130	32	15	29	60	1972
Hermit Thrush	5	-	2	-	1	8	-	-	5	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	25
Swainson's Thrush	1	-	-	2	32	4	-	2	52	11	-	6	6	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	120
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Veery	16	2	2	6	18	25	-	-	101	21	-	2	3	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	3	204
Eastern Bluebird	44	28	53	24	35	27	-	2	22	8	-	11	7	-	1	-	23	2	-	-	1	288
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	16	24	124	26	127	99	2	7	134	29	3	26	26	-	-	2	17	9	2	7	21	701
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23	2	8	-	3	3	-	-	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Water Pipit	-	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	6	1	-	-	-	26
Cedar Waxwing	3	-	36	15	46	20	3	5	46	26	-	64	21	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	2	305
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
European Starling	327	440	1127	299	944	852	27	110	5022	410	22	147	57	-	248	302	1020	146	110	135	255	12000
White-eyed Vireo	12	-	4	2	50	81	-	8	133	90	4	31	44	-	18	12	38	26	10	34	55	652
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	-	25	4	33	17	-	-	6	11	3	3	4	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	9	122
Solitary Vireo	18	1	3	-	2	4	-	-	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	46
Red-eyed Vireo	57	27	106	56	193	121	3	11	315	162	38	80	101	-	42	35	83	16	4	24	27	1501
Philadelphia Vireo	-	1	4	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Warbling Vireo	-	1	31	4	32	2	-	2	12	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	90
Black-and-white Warbler	29	1	7	9	22	50	1	1	174	79	-	11	8	-	7	18	24	10	5	2	120	578
Prothonotary Warbler	-	-	3	1	44	4	-	-	7	7	-	8	16	-	3	1	18	4	2	8	47	173
Swainson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Worm-eating Warbler	-	2	26	3	3	10	1	-	13	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	1	-	10	77
Golden-winged Warbler	16	10	13	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	45
Blue-winged Warbler	1	4	2	1	8	11	1	-	40	5	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	-	-	3	5	88
Tennessee Warbler	7	1	2	13	13	17	-	-	17	24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nashville Warbler	32	2	4	3	2	7	-	-	9	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	66
Northern Parula Warbler	17	4	2	21	110	86	2	8	279	100	9	21	51	-	3	21	29	8	2	4	46	823
Yellow Warbler	61	52	62	11	45	42	3	20	243	28	4	19	13	-	14	18	13	16	-	45	32	741
Magnolia Warbler	4	1	10	-	10	32	-	-	102	17	-	4	-	-	3	1	4	2	-	-	1	191
Cape May Warbler	6	7	-	8	18	31	-	-	30	12	-	3	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	7	127
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	14	2	3	27	20	26	-	-	589	45	1	4	1	-	1	5	9	1	-	4	11	763

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Cr1	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Yellow-rumped Warbler	114	25	48	390	393	270	6	6	3381	413	1	66	11	-	186	131	70	38	1	9	345	5904
Black-thr. Green Warbler	60	8	11	17	22	20	-	-	348	11	1	7	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	511
Cerulean Warbler	1	3	33	1	32	6	-	-	21	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	98
Blackburnian Warbler	16	2	7	-	5	7	-	1	32	7	-	3	-	-	1	2	5	-	-	-	1	89
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	5	1	-	10	1	-	-	8	1	-	-	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	39	71
Chestnut-sided Warbler	23	4	5	-	11	18	-	-	71	7	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	146
Bay-breasted Warbler	19	12	6	-	14	4	-	-	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	72
Blackpoll Warbler	3	2	9	6	22	10	-	-	88	55	1	10	5	-	-	12	3	-	2	2	10	240
Pine Warbler	-	2	22	-	-	2	-	-	3	7	1	2	5	-	-	1	12	36	5	21	14	133
Prairie Warbler	58	4	22	1	8	38	6	3	58	34	-	19	39	-	4	1	9	14	2	21	15	356
Palm Warbler	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ovenbird	55	5	7	19	22	65	1	8	174	69	5	26	25	-	2	6	27	28	8	10	84	646
Northern Waterthrush	7	5	5	1	21	3	-	2	17	8	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	74
Louisiana Waterthrush	5	-	25	16	25	21	-	5	9	1	5	7	16	-	-	1	10	-	-	2	24	172
Kentucky Warbler	2	-	7	9	14	16	1	-	24	18	7	3	7	-	3	5	16	1	-	2	7	142
Mourning Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Yellowthroat	309	36	72	21	170	233	11	11	493	195	20	66	68	1	113	72	78	147	6	78	92	2292
Yellow-breasted Chat	8	14	39	8	42	56	-	3	58	25	-	21	11	-	9	1	25	9	-	19	2	350
Hooded Warbler	5	-	3	6	2	35	-	-	46	38	8	7	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	25	192
Wilson's Warbler	1	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	8	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Canada Warbler	31	3	1	-	13	3	-	-	23	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	85
American Redstart	8	4	35	6	72	37	-	7	177	37	4	33	6	-	2	5	3	1	3	9	25	474
House Sparrow	159	165	582	213	119	189	10	60	818	102	26	47	62	5	115	113	685	88	43	69	56	3726
Bobolink	269	120	100	1	339	728	-	100	2255	1214	260	74	1	150	50	133	154	41	-	1	5	5995
Eastern Meadowlark	53	48	99	85	47	64	5	18	92	20	7	38	31	3	22	58	109	81	2	30	50	962
Red-winged Blackbird	790	208	503	491	358	430	43	80	2470	399	97	219	195	35	449	383	1271	1116	26	177	335	10075
Orchard Oriole	1	5	12	1	31	4	-	1	11	12	6	5	5	2	22	10	46	32	-	7	3	216
Northern Oriole	76	61	160	34	100	56	3	12	184	40	4	4	2	-	16	23	30	6	1	3	19	834
Rusty Blackbird	2	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	19
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	1	61	218	295
Common Grackle	352	407	1259	575	574	534	35	35	1386	351	30	211	265	10	485	515	1645	908	121	338	467	10503
Brown-headed Cowbird	122	92	245	57	155	106	2	16	193	113	5	36	27	-	79	46	147	60	4	36	106	1647
Scarlet Tanager	39	36	91	29	90	66	4	7	129	85	5	28	25	-	2	23	32	13	4	10	21	739
Summer Tanager	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	13	15	-	1	9	51
Northern Cardinal	107	147	344	94	480	415	21	32	590	316	42	106	86	5	196	133	211	109	19	48	79	3580
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	24	1	-	19	47	10	-	-	129	27	-	6	1	-	1	2	1	3	-	3	8	282
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	6	-	1	1	-	-	7	12	2	10	8	-	9	15	63	16	-	1	1	152
Indigo Bunting	81	108	107	24	137	76	5	8	135	76	4	49	71	-	14	22	31	23	2	-	19	992
Evening Grosbeak	10	1	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	32

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	CrI	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Purple Finch	24	7	30	1	9	9	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
House Finch	4	17	43	2	3	-	-	-	42	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	144
American Goldfinch	501	369	322	211	430	328	40	30	803	249	6	66	31	50	80	95	160	45	5	15	26	3862
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	209	91	119	47	123	145	4	3	581	138	11	23	35	-	54	36	165	42	4	33	92	1955
Savannah Sparrow	4	6	6	3	5	34	-	2	31	31	-	3	-	-	-	4	9	28	-	22	6	194
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	-	39	4	11	21	3	6	12	15	2	18	4	-	1	12	21	8	-	-	2	180
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	17
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	8	30	46
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119	-	134	24	293
Vesper Sparrow	7	-	47	10	-	2	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	79
Northern Junco	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
American Tree Sparrow	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Chipping Sparrow	634	139	103	44	36	65	1	13	129	35	2	7	20	6	70	30	144	43	1	21	22	1565
Field Sparrow	248	36	72	33	105	85	18	19	88	81	3	32	14	-	29	40	115	2	-	15	14	1049
White-crowned Sparrow	145	25	57	2	16	21	-	2	42	14	-	6	-	2	7	6	3	2	2	-	-	352
White-throated Sparrow	59	37	78	60	244	189	6	14	443	108	32	9	1	2	23	33	40	6	1	3	22	1410
Fox Sparrow	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Swamp Sparrow	35	7	2	-	14	6	-	4	160	7	1	3	1	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	6	251
Song Sparrow	203	133	131	74	168	154	32	6	467	109	12	34	5	2	20	41	42	16	1	40	43	1733
TOTAL SPECIES	151	131	159	135	158	154	71	90	189	174	81	140	119	28	123	119	130	159	76	126	160	252
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	8544	11001	10180	587	46854	19033	1166	3635	351	4860	6059	3264	165963									
TOTAL PARTY-HOURS	137	80	80½	59	143	165	5	13	229	92½	7	53	21½	3	42	23	118	33	5	30	38	1377½
Party-hours Walking	75	60	28½	47	127	140½	4	7	81½	75½	7	37	11½	3	17	12	68	15	4	28	18	866½
Party-hours Car	61	20	52	12	16	21	1	4	131½	17	-	11	10	-	25	11	47	18	1	2	6	466½
Party-hours Boat	1	-	-	-	-	3½	-	2	16	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	41½
Party-hours Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL PARTY-MILES	509	218	614½	218	254	265	14	36	488	270	5	178½	179	1½	149	205	450	202	21	65	143	4485½
Party-miles Walking	41	58	40½	27	95	84½	2	5	62	68	5	38½	9	1½	19	10	29	4	1	20	9	629
Party-miles Car	463	160	573	191	159	173	12	30	414	202	-	115	170	-	130	195	409	198	20	45	112	3771
Party-miles Boat	5	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	12	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	73
Party-miles Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
NUMBER OF OBSERVERS	46	34	18	16	45	42	3	6	56	34	1	14	3	1	16	9	39	3	18	7	25	436
NUMBER OF PARTIES	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	27	-	1	9	2	1	7	3	23	2	-	3	-	-
STARTING TIME	0300	0430	-	-	0400	0430	0645	-	0000	-	0700	-	0515	0730	-	0515	-	0001	-	0200	0500	0001
STOPPING TIME	2200	2100	-	-	2130	2200	0930	-	2300	-	1400	-	2000	1030	-	2100	-	2359	-	1900	1800	2359

Frances Ehlers, Andrew Hauck, Elsie Hauck, Tim Heaps, Robert Herndon, Beverly Hotz, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Anu Krishnamoorthy, Marcia Krishnamoorthy, V. Krishnamoorthy, Pat Laitala, Ann Llewellyn, Helen McKennon, Sybil McKennon, Dawn Morris, Don Morris, Marjorie Mountjoy, Tom Moyer, Rosamond Munro, Lucille Peters, Dorothy Rauth, Fred Rhineland, Nan Rhineland, Sandra Rhineland, Chandler Robbins, Eleanor Robbins, Stuart Robbins, Evelyn Roberts, Richard Roberts, Jo Solem, Jill Strickland, Mattie Teufel, Mark Wallace, Jack Whyte, Cathy Williamson, Leroy Williamson, Paul Zucker.

CARROLL COUNTY (Cr1). 3 observers. 6:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
Elmer and Jean Worthley, Jerry Newton.

HARFORD COUNTY (Har). 6 observers. Doug and Linda Hackman, Rodney and Eleanor Jones, Ronald Orem, Janice Wisniewski.

BALTIMORE COUNTY (Bal). 56 observers. 12:01 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Sam Ake, Rick Blom, Ed Boyd, Martin Brazeau, Gladys H. Cole, Edith Conley, JoAnne S. Dreyer, Lou and Madeline Ennis, Betsy and Bill Evett, Janet Ganter, Shirley Geddes, Rose Gerringer, William Gerringer, Marion Glass, Walter Greenhouse, Doug and Linda Hackman, Steve Hardiman, Lee Hoffman, Reid Huppman, Dr. and Mrs. J.D.H. Johnson, Pearce Johnson, Tom Judge, Peter Knight, Barbara Larrabee, Matt LeMotte, Bruce McClary, Bertie McGregor, Margaret Markham, Judy Masare, Midge Nelson, Jim Orgain, Patsy Perlman, Rick Perlman, Carroll and Catherine Pinckard, Ben Poscover, Benjie Poscover, Phyllis Ravesies, Mike Resch, Alan and Barbara Ross, Steve Sapperstein, Joe Schreiber, William S. Seegar, Marge Shipley, Eddie Slaughter, Jim Stasz, Charles Swift, Mrs. Leo J. Vollmer, F. Prescott Ward, Elmer and Jean Worthley, David Williams.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY (Ann). 34 observers. Ron Amoss, William Anderson, Bill Battin, Charles Buchanan, Pat and Dick Chiles, Amelia Cochran, Bob Dwight, Ellen Gizzarelli, John Griener, Sally Henderson, Emily Joyce, Paul Kalka, Wayne Klockner, Bunny Knipp, Pat Lawrence, Sheryl Masiello, Scott Mele, Marg and Gene Morris, Ben Pagac, Helen Passano, Niles Primrose, Bryan Rogers, Bill Sladen, Joe Snyder, H.G. Stevenson, Sally Symington, Marianne, Evalyn and Tony Walch, Bob Walton, Hal Wierenga, Ava Wilbur.

CALVERT COUNTY (Cal). 1 observer. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. John H. Fales.

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY (PrG). 14 observers. Stanley Anderson, Gary Hensler, Sam Lyon and 4 others, Elwood Martin, Robert M. Patterson, William Patterson, Susan Pearl, Chan Robbins, Noel Snyder, Michael Sorensen.

CHARLES COUNTY (Cha). 3 observers. 5:15 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Andrew R. Wilmot, George B. Wilmot, Leonard Teuber.

CECIL COUNTY (Cec). 1 observer. 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Mrs. Henry E. Roberts.

KENT COUNTY (Ken). 16 observers. Arlene Delario, Tony Delario, Margaret Duncan, Chris Durham, Jimmy Gruber, Elizabeth Hudson, Lois Johnson, Dorothea McSorley, Dottie Mendinhall, Eddie Mendinhall, Effie Scheer, Winnie Suydam, Jim Terry, John Wheatley, Tad Wheatley, Pat Wilson.



QUEEN ANNES COUNTY (Que). 9 observers. 5:15 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Doug Barnum, Gary Hambleton, Bill Hayes, Bob Hayes, Floyd Hayes, Robert Hayes, David Holmes, Clark Jeschke, Alan Smith.

CAROLINE COUNTY (Car). 39 observers. Catherine Adams, Annabelle Bilbrough, Elsie Bilbrough, Irene Bilbrough, Winifred Bright, Margarethe Butenschoen, Elizabeth Cannon, Marie Dickie, Ethel Engle, Jeanette Eveland, A. J. Fletcher, Roberta Fletcher, Robin Fletcher, Donna Glime, Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Roberta Leggett, Margaret Margrey, Kathleen McKee, Kathy Ann McKee, Marianne Nuttle, Essie Pepper, Douglas Pyle, Elaine Robbins, Mary Robbins, Thomas Robbins, Charlene Schmick, Carol Scudder, Joan Scudder, L. T. Short, Dr. Christian Snyder, Isabel Todd, Michael Todd, Catherine Trice, V.E. Unger, Steve Westre, Irene Wheatley, David Wooters.

DORCHESTER COUNTY (Dor). 3 observers. 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.  
Henry T. Armistead, Floyd L. Parks, Patricia Staggs.

WICOMICO COUNTY (Wic). 18 observers. Ruth Devit, Cam Miller, Dave Saveikis, Charles and Gail Vaughn, and 13 members of the Brookline (Mass.) Bird Club.

SOMERSET COUNTY (Som). 7+ observers. 2 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Polly Batchelder, Ralph and Laura French, Charles F. Hills, Don Messersmith and class, Cam Miller, Martha Simpkins.

WORCESTER COUNTY (Wor). 25 observers. 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Peggy Bohanan, Mary and Lyman Bryan, Sam Dyke, Charlie and Jimmy Cant, Mary Humphreys, Doug Santoni, Charles and Gail Vaughn, Ann and Richard Wilder and 13 members of the Brookline Bird Club.

3033 Woodside Ave., Parkville 21234

\*

## 1977 CONVENTION SUMMARY

*Charles Vaughn*

Ocean City and the Fenwick Inn again saw the arrival on May 6, 1977, of experienced as well as beginning birders to the 30th M.O.S. Annual Convention. As people picked up the program the usual indecisions began. How to choose from a selection of thirty-nine field trips? North Pocomoke Swamp, Shad Landing State Park (combined with Milburn Landing into new Pocomoke River State Park), canoe trips on the Pocomoke River, Chincoteague Refuge, Wallops Island, Va.--even an all-day boat trip to the Outer Continental shelf!

The Friday evening speakers, George Reiger, Washington editor of *Audubon*, and Dorothy Valentine from Accomac, Virginia enlightened those who attended about the national political problem of oil spills and birds, and the more practical (?) problem of caring for the oiled birds. Later that night beginning birders, new to the Fenwick, puzzled over the strange loud sound emanating from the depths of the pine woods just behind the motel. Loud, triple phrased, and endlessly repetitive--even monotonous for those whose room windows opened to the rear. Rumors

spread that this vociferous vocalist vaunts his name in onomatopoetic phrases - chuck-will's-widow - chuck-will's-widow - ...

We turned in early. First trips of the morning started at 4:30! After coffee and donuts we were off to the North Pocomoke Swamp to hear the "dawn chorus"; or over to West Ocean City for rails. Others--less adventuresome--waited for 7:15 to head for canoes on the Pocomoke River, or a leisurely trip through the Pocomoke State Forest, Wallops Island, Virginia, or Little Creek, Delaware.

By 8:30 a.m. another group of trips was ready to start. Birders from the 4:30 a.m. trip gathered to share experiences, while some downright casual souls actually slept through the early morning fun and just appeared. A second group was off to Wallops Island, birding along the way. They met the first group at noon and traded places at the island entrance. In this way two groups are able to share the excellent shore-birding on the island.

Other 8:30 a.m. trips departed for Chincoteague, Irish Grove Sanctuary, or various less distant spots where beginning birders more leisurely studied birds of the woods or swamps near Ocean City.

At noon, most people returned to the Fenwick for lunch. Only the Wallops, Chincoteague, Irish Grove and Little Creek trips stayed away all day. Leaders from the morning trips called out their best finds so everyone could hear. Later, at dinner, we repeated the lists so those on the all-day trips could also hear.

Half-day trips for the afternoon covered most of the morning areas again. Two new trips were added: a botany trip to the Pocomoke State Forest and a bird photography trip around Ocean City. By evening everyone was happy to return for dinner and relaxation. Summaries of the trips showed the usual spring parade of migrants heading north.

Surprisingly common were Cerulean Warblers; often unrecorded on the convention, this species appeared in several different areas over the weekend. Not to be outdone by the birds, Kathy Klimkiewicz straggled in late with a tale of being stranded on Chincoteague for two hours at the end of her trip while firemen paraded by the bridge. Serendipity saved the day, however, by leading several cars of birders to Tom's Cove Campground where more than fifteen nests with young Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found. This episode once again demonstrates that a little extra time spent in a usually well known region can produce an unexpected bonus.

Wallops Island produced the usual abundance of shorebirds. Beautiful close views of a Northern Phalarope, Stilt Sandpipers and a female Wilson's Plover were unique for the day; while Gull-billed Terns were a regular sight. Far offshore gannets were barely identifiable to those familiar with these graceful sailing and diving birds. A great surprise was a lone female Harlequin Duck puddling somewhat out-of-place near a wooden groin.

After dinner came the only business event of the weekend--the Annual Convention. This lasted about an hour. At 9:00 p.m. the Board of Directors met to iron out overall Society problems and plan for the coming year.

Sunday morning trips duplicate much of Saturday except that all trips, save one, end by lunch. The one exception is the boat trip to the Baltimore Canyon to search for pelagic species.

At lunch, trip leaders gave highlights of their trips. The Sunday trip to Wallops is hectic. We leave at 7:15 a.m., travel 50 miles and come back by noon. Only special birds from the day before can be sought: first the Northern Phalarope and Stilt Sandpipers; then the Gull-billed Terns and the large pool of shorebirds including many knots, Whimbrel, yellowlegs, turnstones and various peeps; then on to the south end of the island where a Wilson's Plover and Harlequin Duck were seen. The birds were quickly found; then we returned for a quick stop at the large pool because one person wanted a better look at the Whimbrel. Everyone got out of the cars, and some set up scopes for a quick peek. But we must hurry; everyone jumped back in his cars except the leader and one couple. "Please confirm for my wife that this bird is a knot." O.K. A quick peek through the scope--a second peek--and disbelief. It's not a knot. A loud call from the leader "BREEDING PLUMAGE CURLEW SANDPIPER." A must for everyone. The cars emptied quickly and scopes were opened again. How could this bird have been overlooked before? Two groups yesterday and once earlier today. (The Curlew Sandpiper was seen several times for at least another week within 20 meters of where it was discovered.) Saturday groups must have missed it in their rush. Or perhaps we should applaud the independent wife who failed to acquiesce to male authority. After ten minutes of looking we were back in the cars with that feeling of fulfillment that leads one to the next trip with raised hopes.

We arrived at the Fenwick barely in time for lunch. When trip leaders stood to give their trip highlights the Wallops trip once again held the limelight. The Curlew Sandpiper is a new species for any M.O.S. Convention--the only new one seen this year.

After the trip highlights Chan Robbins read the checklist of species. If a species was seen someone called out. For the first time in many years we missed the American Bittern. The Red-headed Woodpecker also was missed--a real oversight in view of the fact that they are common in Virginia near Chincoteague. But many species often missed were seen. After the list was completed Chan counted a total of 224 species that had been seen, more than one species for each person registered. The Sunday morning count showed 190 people registered for the Convention.

Although we anticipated the boat trip would add five or so new species, we found out later that the boat encountered rough weather and had to return before reaching the most productive waters for birds. Our list thus stood at 224.

1306 Frederick Ave., Salisbury 21801

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 14, 1977

The annual membership meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held at the Fenwick Inn, Ocean City, Maryland on Saturday, May 14, 1977. The President, Lt. Col. William G. Bodenstein, called the session to order at 8:10 P.M. Speaking as Parliamentarian, Mr. Tucker pointed out that only 75 persons were present, 25 short of the 100 minimum required for a quorum. It was established that the body could meet, but any official actions must be ratified at a later date in the presence of a quorum.

A motion was introduced by Mr. Vaughn, seconded and passed, waiving reading of the Minutes of the last annual meeting. They were approved as printed in the June 1976 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*, distributed to all members.

Treasurer's Report. Mr. MacGregor's complete report will be printed in this issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. At the close of the 1976-1977 season, total of all funds was \$49,438.05, in contrast to \$49,865.16 at the same time last year. However, the Society has completed payment on the Carey Run mortgage and has no debts. A \$4,000 interest-bearing bond was purchased from funds in the Helen Miller account; another for \$3,000 had been purchased previously.

In addition to the funds reported, checks were received from the Baltimore Chapter donating \$500 to the Helen Miller Fund, \$500 to the Sanctuary Fund, and \$500 given in memory of Ono Lescure, a deceased member. The Anne Arundel Chapter would shortly turn over to the Society the sum of \$5,400, with the proviso that a special sanctuary trust fund be established, the interest from which might be used for the maintenance of any sanctuary, the capital only for a sanctuary in Anne Arundel County. President Bodenstein accepted the Treasurer's report for the Society, and commended Mr. MacGregor for a job well done.

President's Message. This year the Society had slightly more than 2,000 members. Although this represented a five percent drop in total membership, eight of the fourteen individual chapters increased in numbers.

President Bodenstein spoke of the successful effort which gained us tax exemption in all counties but Somerset. He commended those within the M.O.S. who worked so effectively to achieve this, and expressed the appreciation of the Society for others who helped immeasurably--Mrs. Judy Johnson of the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island, and Senators Steny H. Hoyer, James Clark, Jr., Homer White and Porter Hopkins.

Standing Committees, Project Reports. Reports of the Bluebird Project, Auditing, Conservation Easement, Convention, Education, Library, Long Range Planning, Research, Sanctuary and Scholarship Committees were presented. They will be printed in their entirety in *Maryland Birdlife*. In order that Society members might be kept abreast of conservation issues, a chairman was being sought to fill the vacancy on the Conservation Committee.

Speaking as Chairman of the Publications Committee, Mr. Robbins reported that the next two issues of *Maryland Birdlife* would be ready for the printer shortly. Work continued on a revised field list and a four-page checklist, to be available in the near future.

Ad Hoc Committees. The brochure has been completed by Mr. Selckmann and printed at no cost to the Society. Mr. Hampe, first President of the M.O.S., asked that any information of value to the Historical Committee be submitted to him, so he may proceed with the task of writing the history of the Society.

Election of Officers. Mr. Peters, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the 1977-1978 season: President, Lt. Col. William G. Bodenstein; First Vice President, Mr. Charles Vaughn; Second Vice President, Dr. Benjamin Poscover; Treasurer, Mr. W. Gordon MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs. Helen Ford. A motion was introduced by Mrs. Mendinhall, seconded and passed, re-electing these officers for another term.

The names of Miss Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Miss Nan Livingstone and Mr. Ray Bryan were presented to serve two-year terms on the Nominating Committee. Appointment of these three committee members was later confirmed by the Board of Directors at their meeting which followed.

Election of Trustees. The Secretary read the list of trustees nominated by the individual chapters to serve for the 1977-1978 season (Chapter Presidents are indicated by an asterisk): ALLEGANY: Mr. Robert J. Hiegel\*, Mrs. Robert J. Hiegel, Mr. John Willetts; ANNE ARUNDEL: Mr. James W. Cheevers\*, Mr. John C. Ford, Jr., Dr. William Battin; BALTIMORE: Mr. John Cullom\*, Mrs. C. Lockard Conley, Mrs. Martin G. Larrabee, Mrs. Raymond Geddes, Jr., Mrs. Edward A. Metcalf, Dr. Benjamin F. Poscover, Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Mrs. Joshua Rowe, Dr. Alan Ross; CAROLINE: Mr. Thomas A. Robbins\*, Mr. Steven Westre; DORCHESTER: Mr. Dale C. Price\*, Mr. Milton Webster; FREDERICK: Mrs. Phyllis Hodge\*, Mr. August Selckmann; HARFORD: Mr. Eldred Johnson\*, Col. Leland Devore, Mr. John Wortman; HOWARD: Mrs. Lucille Peters\*, Dr. Robert Herndon; KENT: Mr. Floyd Parks\*, Mrs. Edward Mendinhall; MONTGOMERY: Miss Claudia P. Wilds\*, Mrs. Lola Oberman, Miss M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Mr. Philip A. DuMont; PATUXENT: Mr. Paul Bystrak\*, Mr. Danny Bystrak; TALBOT: Mr. G. Curtis Engel, Dr. Robert W. Trever, Mrs. Marian Delphey; WASHINGTON: Mrs. Marlin Thurmond\*, Mr. Edward Peters; WICOMICO: Mrs. Nancy Strahl\*, Mrs. Lee Meihersmann. Following a motion by Mrs. Vaughn, duly seconded, the members approved these Trustees.

New Business. Mr. Tucker announced that the new tum Suden Sanctuary was now available to all M.O.S. members. Special invitations were tendered to the Executive Council to hold its July meeting there, to all Eastern Shore members on June 25 and all Western Shore members on July 30. A letter containing detailed instructions was sent to all Chapter Presidents.

At 9:10 P.M., the members approved Mr. Keedy's motion for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted, *Helen M. Ford*, Secretary

## BLUEBIRD PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

At a recent meeting of the Executive Council it was recommended that certain activities of MOS be designated as "Projects," each to be under the leadership of a project director. In accordance with this recommendation the former MOS Bluebird Committee has now been redesignated as the MOS Bluebird Project.

The project continues to be well integrated with the Audubon Naturalist Society's bluebird project. Interest in the combined MOS-ANS project has continued to expand. For the 1976 nesting season 83 collaborators maintained approximately 2,300 bluebird nesting boxes, nearly all in Maryland and Virginia. An estimated 5,065 young Eastern Bluebirds were fledged from these boxes during the season, a new record for the project (*Atlantic Naturalist* 31: 160-162).

The record-breaking severity of the past winter throughout most of the Eastern Bluebird's range may have substantially reduced the population of the species. A survey is being conducted by asking all bluebird trail operators to report how many of their nesting boxes were occupied by bluebirds for first broods this year compared with last year. This should provide some objective indication of the extent of bluebird losses during the winter in various areas.

The Prince George's Beautification Committee has been active in promoting bluebird conservation throughout Prince George's County in recognition of the Eastern Bluebird as the official county bird. This recognition was based in part on the success of our project.

Believing that widespread public participation is necessary to accomplish our goal of restoring the bluebird population, much of our effort has been devoted to publicizing the plight of the bluebird and offering nation-wide assistance and advice in bluebird conservation efforts. Articles on the subject have appeared in numerous newspapers during the year, including the New York Times. Monthly articles have been written for the Purple Martin News as well as several articles for the Audubon Naturalist News. Articles referring to our project have also appeared during the year in such diverse national distributed periodicals as *Defenders*, *Dynamic Maturity*, *Catholic Digest*, and *Science World*. This publicity resulted in some 2,000 written requests for detailed information on bluebirds and how they can be helped.

A book "The Bluebird - How You Can Help Its Fight for Survival" by the project director was published during the year by Indiana University Press as a volume in the Audubon Naturalist Library. It may be obtained locally from the MOS Bookstore in Baltimore, the Audubon Book Shop in Washington and at various other book stores.

An article based in part on our project will appear in the June 1977 issue of *National Geographic*. It will feature superb bluebird photography by MOS member Michael L. Smith.

Lawrence Zeleny, Project Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 1977

OPERATING FUND

Fund Balance April 30, 1976 \$ 8,728.03

Receipts:

Dues	\$7,499.00	
Convention Income	730.85	
Sale of Publications	42.14	
Sale of Private Sanctuary Signs	348.20	
Interest on Savings Acct.	417.96	
Interest from Sanctuary Endowment	1,300.57	
Amateur Gardeners Club, for Scholarship	325.00	
Assistance on Mailing Permit (Balt. Chapter)	<u>20.00</u>	
		<u>10,683.72</u>
		\$19,411.75

Expenditures:

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE, Printing & Mailing	\$1,527.50	
Convention Expenses	533.50	
Audubon Camp Scholarships	450.00	
Exec. Secretary Compensation	3,200.95	
Admin. & Office Expenses	729.84	
Osprey Project Disbursements	225.00	
Research Project	100.00	
Affiliation Fees, Nat. Audubon, Md. Con. Ccl.	75.00	
Insurance, Liability	475.65	
Utilities at Sanctuaries	398.09	
Private Sanctuary Program Signs & Postage	385.76	
Sanctuary Property Maintenance & Expense	488.26	
Property Insurance	348.00	
Property Taxes	1,232.85	
Legal Fees	<u>100.00</u>	
		<u>10,270.40</u>

Fund Balance April 30, 1977 \$ 9,141.35

HELEN MILLER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Fund Balance April 30, 1976 7,124.19

Receipts:

Contributions Received	\$186.00	
Interest Earned, Dayton P. & L. Bonds	240.00	
Interest Earned on Savings Acct.	<u>208.98</u>	
		<u>634.98</u>
		\$7,759.17

Expenditures:

Scholarship		<u>350.00</u>
-------------	--	---------------

Fund Balance April 30, 1977 \$7,409.17



SANCTUARY FUND

Fund Balance April 30, 1976		\$ 9,512.94
Receipts:		
Contributions, including Life Memberships:		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,827.53	
For Carey Run Addition	406.47	
The tum Suden Sanctuary (Appr. Value)	25,000.00	
Interest on Savings Acct.	<u>502.69</u>	<u>27,736.69</u>
		\$37,249.63
Expenditures:		
Carey Run Mortgage (Final Pmt.)	\$ 3,807.64	
Interest on Mortgage	144.46	
Capitalization of tum Suden Sanctuary	<u>25,000.00</u>	<u>28,952.10</u>
Fund Balance April 30, 1977		\$ 8,297.53

Reconciliation of Accts. & Assets at End of Fiscal Year

Fund Balances:		
Operating Fund	\$ 9,141.35	
Helen Miller Scholarship Endowment Fund	7,409.17	
Sanctuary Fund	8,297.53	
Sanctuary Endowment Fund	<u>24,500.00</u>	\$49,348.05

Fund Assets:		
Checking Account, Md. Nat. Bank	\$ 403.90	
Savings Account, Loyola Federal	17,338.56	
T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund	9,500.00*	
Niagara Mohawk Power Co. Bonds (7.375%)	4,983.15*	
Gen. Telephone Co., S. E. Bonds (7.750%)	5,129.92*	
Ohio Bell Telephone Co. Bonds (7.875%)	4,987.81*	
Dayton Power & Light Co. Bonds (8.000%)	3,012.67**	
Virginia Electric & Pwr. Bonds (8.625%)	3,992.04**	\$49,348.05
* Sanctuary Endowment Fund Securities		
** Helen Miller Scholarship Endowment Fund Securities		
(Securities are carried at cost)		

SANCTUARY INVESTMENT

Carey Run	\$48,021.95	Pelot	\$13,019.88
Mill Creek	14,446.86	Manderes Creek	3,544.00
Irish Grove	84,779.20	tum Suden	25,000.00

Sanctuaries are listed at cost (or at appraised value, if an outright gift) plus the cost of subsequent improvements.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

I have examined the financial records of the Maryland Ornithological Society for the year ending April 30, 1977. In my opinion the aforementioned records accurately present the financial position of the Society.

(Signed) *Rodney B. Jones*, Chairman

## CONSERVATION EASEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Conservation Easement Committee's "Guide for Prospective Donors" was printed in the June 1976 *Maryland Birdlife*. Since the publication of these "Guidelines" the Committee has been inactive as it has received no requests for information relating to Conservation Easements from either Society members or other landowners, nor has it received any referrals from the Maryland Environmental Trust.

*Julia A. Metcalf*, Chairman

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Education Committee has completed the following activities:

1. Exchange of Chapter programs;
2. State-wide listers trip;
3. The selection of an "Outstanding Achievement in Ornithology."

This first MOS award was presented to Edward Davis of Perry Hall Senior High School of Baltimore County, Maryland at the Twenty-second Baltimore Science Fair. Judging of projects, of which there were four, and the presentation of the award was by Joy Wheeler and Ben Poscover. Ed's project was "Weight Fluctuations During Winter Feeding in the Tree Sparrow." The award certificate was printed by Ed Peters and framed by Bix Wheeler. This was an excellent experience for us all and we are looking forward to expanding it.

Activity to be completed:

The Somerset County Breeding Bird Foray, Saturday, May 28-30. Reference was made to this in our Report of March 5 to the Board of Directors and a letter was sent to all members by Charles Vaughn who will lead and coordinate this effort.

*Ben Poscover*, Chairman

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee has continued to work on the following projects:

1. Preparing and sending sets of *Maryland Birdlife* to the following libraries: Washington College, Salisbury State, U.M.E.S., Mt. St. Marys, Catonsville, Columbia Union, Towson High School, and Franklin High School.
2. Organizing exchange journals at Cylburn.
3. Opening the Cylburn Library on Nov. 28, 1976 for a Library Day to introduce the new location of the journals.
4. Publication of a schedule for use of the Cylburn Library.
5. Exploring the idea of placing the MOS books in the Cylburn Horticultural Library, but when finding that the books are Baltimore Chapter books, allowing Baltimore Chapter to take over that project.

6. Requesting funds to carry out that project, but revising that request.
7. Receiving review copies of books from various publishers, reviewing them, and placing MOS bookplates in them for identification.
8. Completing sets of *Maryland Birdlife* for binding, for Carey Run, Irish Grove, and tum Suden Sanctuaries.
9. Planning to proceed with publishing an accession list of the MOS Library.
10. Receiving from Mr. August Selckmann book plates he designed for books belonging to MOS.

Joy Wheeler, Chairman

#### LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

As many of you will recall at last year's annual meeting the Long Range Planning Committee submitted a lengthy report containing 32 specific proposals for consideration as future goals of the MOS. This report was distributed to the new 1976-77 Board of Directors, and at the Board's fall meeting in October was accepted as a report to allow the President and Executive Council the option to recommend appropriate actions to fulfill those proposals which meet the Society's needs. Several of the points have been adopted through actions of the By-Laws Committee, *i.e.*, those concerning the voting privileges of the officers and the status of *ad hoc* committees.

Because of the load of regular business at the January Executive Council meeting there was not sufficient time to get involved in a general discussion of the specific long range proposals. At the March Board of Directors meeting the President requested that the various committee chairmen concerned with the various areas of the proposals report to the upcoming Executive Council in July. And this is the current status of the future objectives put forth in 1976.

We have no new proposals at this time. However, as Chairman I will continue to see that those proposals already before the Society remain in view for consideration. I also continue to solicit from any member of the Society ideas that might be appropriate for inclusion in the long range plan.

James Cheevers, Chairman

#### RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

In its first funded year of operation the Research Committee received three grant proposals and funded all three. Jan Reese (St. Michaels, Md.) requested and received \$225 to support his 1976 Osprey activities in Chesapeake Bay. His excellent work on behalf of the Osprey are well documented in the April 1977 issue of the *Auk*, with appropriate credit to MOS.

Dan Boone (Funkstown, Md.) requested and received \$50 to continue field work on the Breeding Bird Atlas in Washington County, Maryland.

Dr. Claudia Parker (Parsonburg, Md.) is approved for a total 1977 expenditure of \$225 to develop a Breeding Bird Atlas Project on a statewide basis. Dr. Parker has received \$50 to first investigate and recommend to the Research Committee a statewide grid system for use by all M.O.S. chapters in producing county atlases in their areas. She will receive the remaining \$175 for work on producing maps and explanatory information to be sent to all chapters.

A budget of \$750 has been requested for 1978. We intend this year to expand advertizing grant availability to various ornithological journals in addition to *Maryland Birdlife*.

*Charles Vaughn*, Chairman

#### SANCTUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Sanctuary Committee is pleased to report that during the year just ended title to the tum Suden property passed to our Society, and that with possession we are placing emphasis on its use as a teaching area. We are especially fortunate in the fact that it abuts a sizeable and most unusual natural area belonging to the School Board of Harford County. We have been able to work out an arrangement with that body whereby we utilize both properties for nature-study classes we conduct there for Harford County School children.

The committee is glad to report progress toward the reinstatement of our property-tax exemption status. At the recent Legislative session, we received favorable action for all our sanctuaries except Irish Grove. This was achieved through the efforts of many members from the several chapters. We now must concentrate our efforts upon the job of convincing the Somerset delegation of our right to tax exemption.

Finally, our mortgage on the Carey Run property has been completely liquidated, and, with a hefty gift of funds from the Anne Arundel Chapter, our Sanctuary Fund is in excellent shape, as the Treasurer's report will show.

*V. E. Unger*, Chairman

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Helen Miller Scholarship Committee has chosen the following winners of the three scholarships awarded annually for attendance at National Audubon Summer Workshops.

Miss Robin L. Wightman, Director of Programs at the Neighborhood Service Center in Easton, Maryland, is winner of the Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Workshop in Maine.

Mrs. Carole A. Keister, teacher at the Timonium Elementary School, is winner of the scholarship sponsored by the Amateur Gardeners' Club of Baltimore. She will be attending the Audubon Workshop in the West.

Mrs. Madeline C. Ennis, teacher at the Kenwood Senior High School in Baltimore, is winner of the MOS Scholarship. She will be attending the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut.

The winners were chosen from eleven very fine candidates sponsored by six different chapters of MOS. The committee wishes to express its appreciation to the various chapters for their efforts in finding candidates for these scholarships. We feel sure the winners will make excellent use of the knowledge they gain in attending the various Audubon Summer Workshops they have selected.

*Mildred E. Gebhard, Chairman*

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

### ALLEGANY CHAPTER

Our chapter had a full year of activities including picnics, hikes and programs. Work days at Carey Run Sanctuary were most productive with many showing up to help. Grass was mowed and repairs made as needed. Mr. John Workmeister worked hard at getting Carey Run exempted from taxes and as a recent letter states, we were successful!

We featured speakers such as Chan Robbins, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Danny Bystrak, Dr. Richard Johnson, and Paul Smith on birds, flowers and hawk migration. We participated in the Christmas Bird Count on December 18, 1976.

One of our highlights was sponsorship of the Audubon Wildlife Film Series--five shows, to help us financially. A.C.C. has agreed to co-sponsor and we are using their auditorium for the programs.

Our Nature Camp was most successful, thanks to Mr. Robert Hiegel and John Willefts and a staff consisting of Helen Brake, Harriett Williams, Mel Garland and Elyse Harmon. Part-time crew consisted of Rick Rando of the Allegany Soil Conservation Office, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Folk, Bill Richmond, Irene Kuykendall, Miss Alberta Dillon, Paul Nazelrod, Ann Smith, Dorothea Malec, Joy Wilner, Earl Dennison and Deborah Layton.

We had over 90 students from the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades from our county and out of county who studied a variety of natural subjects, including birds, flowers, insects, archery, soils, ecology, ferns, amphibians, etc. All left the camp tired, but happy and wanting to come back!

Our counselors were recruited from colleges and high schools. Without them, and our adult volunteer help, we couldn't have functioned.

For Carey Run reservations contact Mr. or Mrs. Daniel Folk, 179 Pleasant St., Frostburg (689-6587) or Mr. or Mrs. Robert S. Heigel, 208 Forest Drive, LaVale (722-7447).

*Kendrick Y. Hodgdon, President*

## ANNE ARUNDEL CHAPTER

Our Chapter enjoyed a very full and active year. The program planning committee set to work early and had the 1976-77 program to the members by July. Field trips were held in the summer to catch the shorebird migration. The regular year was kicked off on August 28 with a potluck supper at the home of Captain and Mrs. J.E.M. Wood. Several charter members of the Chapter attended to reminisce. We were honored by having as our guests Mr. and Mrs. Duke Hampe, the first President of MOS; Mrs. Gladys Cole; and Mr. and Mrs. Chan Robbins. Commander Ed Wilson, the first President of Anne Arundel, was awarded the first chapter life membership at this affair.

Seven monthly meetings were held from October to April with a total attendance of 343. The speakers to whom we are deeply indebted and their subjects were: Richard A. Rowlett "Sea Birds and Marine Mammals," Dr. Donald Lear "Environmental Study on Ocean Dumping," Paul Bystrak "MOS Sanctuaries," Dr. Lawrence Zeleny "Bluebirds," and Dr. Aelred Geis "Wildlife in an Urban Environment." Other meetings featured films from the Department of Natural Resources and members' favorite wildlife slides. The meeting at which Dr. Geis gave us an excellent talk on how man has affected birdlife in his developments enabled the Chapter to donate \$101. each to the Sanctuary Fund and the Helen Miller Scholarship Fund.

Chapter business was conducted at each meeting. The major resolution of the year was voted favorably in February. It transferred to the MOS a total of \$5,472.45, known as the Anne Arundel Sanctuary Fund. The resolve enables the MOS to use the income from this endowment for the operation, maintenance and expansion of all MOS sanctuaries while the principle remains reserved for exclusive use for such properties in Anne Arundel County. The resolution was accepted by the MOS Board of Directors in March and the funds were transferred in May.

The most persistent item at meetings was keeping the members informed about various legislative bills to regain MOS tax exemption. House Bill 991 sponsored by Delegates Aiken, Neall and Smith and referring exclusively to our county passed easily. Senate Bill 200 granted the MOS statewide exemption except for local taxes in Somerset County. All Arundelites who helped in this effort are hereby thanked for their time and energy.

Work was begun on Mandares Creek Sanctuary. Ellen Gizzarelli, Sanctuary Chairman, received, reviewed and implemented a plan for trails, bird observation blind, birdhouses and a sign. The plan and work were done by Steven T. Joyce, Boy Scout Troop 731, as an Eagle Scout project. Steve is a junior member of the Chapter.

Field trips were the major portion of Anne Arundel activities. Thirty-one trips were scheduled. A cumulative total of 329 persons spent about 250 hours, traveled 3,780 miles by car and 102 on foot, and saw 240 species of birds. Examining the individual reports, the most popular outings were the fall trip to Mandares Creek Sanctuary with sixteen observers led by Carol Swartz, and Sandy Point with Hal Wierenga and fifteen birders. The

best birding totals for half day, local trips were Ellen's Goodie in late May with 64 and 62 with Hal at Sandy Point in November. The best full day list of 85 species was reported by the Fords for Bombay Hook/Port Mahon in late July, and the greatest weekend total was 107 at Brigantine/Cape May in early October.

Under the excellent coordination of Professor Harold and Hal Wierenga the Anne Arundel Christmas Count had 61 observers. Totals of 45,837 birds of 105 species were recorded. Compilation of the May Count has not yet been completed. Twenty-seven Chapter members attended the MOS convention in Ocean City later in May.

Press coverage of the Chapter was gratifying during the year. The local newspaper carried announcements of all Chapter events, and Fran Jaques covered two field trips and the Christmas Count in feature stories. The December '76 issue of *Annapolitan* magazine contained a lengthy article on the history and purposes of the Chapter.

In April a California condor named Duffy carried off Pat Flory, our Vice President-elect, to feed hummingbirds in Solana Beach. We shall all miss Pat very much. She was among our most active and loyal members and a good friend.

Thanks to my fellow officers, our speakers, hostesses and field trip leaders we had a most successful and enjoyable year.

*James W. Cheevers*, President

#### BALTIMORE CHAPTER

This year we have been interested in statistics to help provide justification for the sanctuary tax exemption problems. Since the numbers provided by chapter statistician Jim Emerson turned out to be rather interesting I thought a statistical chapter report would be appropriate.

The chapter membership as of May 5, 1977 was 715. This is the third year of reduced membership and the fact that the membership is still declining is a concern to all of us.

The 76-77 Adult Programs consisted of 62 birding field trips, 5 come-as-you-are-teas, one covered dish supper, one social evening, 3 out of state bus trips, 7 Tuesday evening lectures and a beginners bird-watching class. The 62 field trips required 55 leaders and drew 881 participants. Attendance at the other events totaled 644. All of these activities were planned and executed by Program Committee Chairman Joy Wheeler and her committee and Diddy Zapf and her hospitality committee.

Martha Schaffer, Barbara Ross, Kay Smith and 46 chapter volunteers provided 53 nature classes at Cylburn for approximately 1580 school children. In addition, about 680 junior members attended 14 Saturday programs and nature walks.



Bob Wood along with 14 adult and 7 junior leaders conducted a week-end Junior Nature Camp at King's Landing for 66 junior members.

Over 8000 children visited the MOS museum at Cylburn.

Mounted birds from the chapter's collection were loaned in groups of about 10 on 24 different occasions to schools and nature centers throughout the Baltimore area.

Lansing Fulford with his four-man committee organized four Audubon film presentations at Dumbarton Jr. High School that drew an audience of 1823 people.

The extension service under Don Jewell presented 11 birding lectures to various outside civic and religious groups to a total of 350 people.

Barbara Larrabee and 11 other members provided hostesses for 13 "open house" Sundays at Cylburn. Doris Brumback kept the bird feeders at Cylburn filled with hundreds of pounds of bird seed.

There were 930 calls to the MOS public information telephone at Shirley Geddes' house and 150 bird information exchange contacts to Rosalee Archer. Peggy Bohanan provided numerous rare bird sightings to the avid birders through her "Rare Bird Alert."

There were 8 Audubon Nature Camp scholarship applicants sponsored by the chapter and two winners.

Patsy Perlman, as Publicity Chairman, distributed 7800 folders and flyers advertising the Audubon Film series. There were also TV, radio, and newspaper releases about the other chapter activities. Jack Dawson did a feature article on the May Count.

Conservation Chairman, Dave Thorndill, represented the chapter at 4 statewide conservation meetings and served as consultant to 3 Nature Centers.

The MOS Bookstore under Bob Hurley provided books and other articles for sale at the four Audubon films, at the Ocean City convention and daily via the telephone and mail. Marion Butler edited 10 chapter newsletters. Marge Shipley printed and published the newsletters as well as junior program material.

Rodney Jones, as Sanctuary representative, kept the chapter informed of sanctuary activities, particularly the new tum Suden Sanctuary.

As you can see the Baltimore Chapter has had a full year, a lot of people were involved in producing our programs and a lot of other people participated in the activities. It has been a good year and we are looking forward to the next.

*John Cullom, President*

## CAROLINE COUNTY CHAPTER

Our chapter's 34 members enjoyed a program of monthly meetings and other activities, including a bird banding demonstration at Damsite, the Christmas Bird Count, a Clean-up Day at Pelot Sanctuary, and the State-wide Bird Count in May.

Our speakers were Steve Westre, with an illustrated account of a canoe trip in Minnesota; Dr. Larry Zeleny, with a slide show on his work with bluebirds; John Burd, who gave a talk on Natural Population Control; Ed Unger's account of a trip to Alaska; Paul Bystrak, discussing Organic Gardening; and Chandler Robbins, telling about his trip to Africa.

*Thomas Robbins, President*

## DORCHESTER HERITAGE BIRD CLUB

Our chapter, sponsored by Dorchester Heritage, Inc., was organized in February 1975 and affiliated with MOS in April 1975. We meet at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of the month at the Main Building of the University of Maryland's Horn Point laboratory.

During the past year we had several bird observation trips on land and by boat.

We have had scientists from the University of Maryland and surrounding areas who have spoken on Broad-winged Hawks in the Adirondacks, Wild Turkeys, Birds of Maryland, and Clear-cutting of Timber and how it affects wildlife of Dorchester County.

*Constance Unangst, Secretary*

## FREDERICK CHAPTER

The Frederick Chapter is pleased to report some increase in membership this year, probably due to the excellent programs that we have offered at our monthly meetings held from September through May. They are always open to the public and were well publicized in the local newspaper.

In September, Dr. Kenneth Bromfield gave an extremely well organized, illustrated talk on the basic principles of ecology. In October, Dr. William Oberman treated us to the experience of a birding trip to the Big Bend area of Texas. We were privileged, in November, to share Carl Carlson's adventures in "The High Arctic." Following our December annual dinner, served most lavishly by the ladies of the Methodist Church in Araby, we learned more about the exciting "Birds of Prey" from the best of experts, Chan Robbins.

In January, a veterinarian member of our Chapter, Dr. Herbert Amyx, gave us a very practical talk on "Caring for Injured and Orphaned Wild Creatures." We had scheduled "Show and Tell" slides by members for the February meeting but, as bluebird slides and experiences were to be a part of it, Dr. Zeleny and Michael Smith, the photographer for his National

Geographic article, surprised and pleased us by attending and sharing with us. Naturally, it turned into a Bluebird meeting and other slides were postponed until May. A re-activated interest in attracting blue-birds has resulted in many more nesting boxes being constructed and distributed.

In March, we traveled far with Dr. Donald Messersmith to see "The Rarest Birds in the World" and in April we were given a very complete and helpful illustrated talk on "Spring Shorebird Identification" by Richard Rowlett. We were happy to share these last two programs with the students in the Hood College ornithology class. The generosity of our speakers in sharing their time, experiences and expertise with us has been highly appreciated. Birders truly are "the nicest people."

Each meeting also included reports of our field trips, unusual bird sightings and news from our Conservation Chairman.

Frederick County offers such a rich variety of habitats--with its fish ponds, rivers, mountains, cliffs, farmlands and woods--that all our field trips were taken nearby. Two trips a month were held during the fall and spring, with a mid-winter morning feeder watch followed by "lunch with the birds."

We participated in the Christmas and May Counts and several of our members were able to go on the Delmarva Listers Trip, which they enthusiastically endorsed. Our annual family picnic ended a busy and satisfying year.

*Phyllis Hodge*, President

#### HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Harford Chapter had an enjoyable year. The dinner meetings, programs, field trips and other activities have brought the members closer together resulting in more individual interest and effort.

The officers and committeemen met at the beginning of the year and planned on a long-term basis. Some of the suggestions were implemented this year and hopefully the others will be accomplished later.

Eleven field trips were taken in different counties in Maryland and in Pennsylvania. The trips were: Birding and a picnic supper at the Harford Glen, Patapsco River Valley, Hawk Mountain, Lake Aldred, Upper Reaches of the Chesapeake Bay, Bombay Hook, Birding at Brauns', Aberdeen Proving Ground, a trip to the Devores', and Susquehanna State Park.

The outstanding trip was a three-hour bus trip through the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Participants traveled in restricted areas abounding in wildlife. The tour, conducted by the game warden of the area, was a rare treat.

An activity that created a lot of interest and made money for the organization was the public auction. Each member was given the opportunity

to participate by donating articles for sale and by taking an active part in the project. Many did. It was a success both financially and socially.

The acquisition by the State of the turn Suden property as a sanctuary has encouraged the members to become more involved in sanctuaries. The location in Harford County, the accessibility of the property to the members, the good birding environment, and the improved physical facilities, make it an ideal spot. Many of our members are frequent visitors and have accepted the responsibility for bird feeding and proper maintenance of the property. One individual made a contribution of \$200.00 for the purchase of a stove for the building. The Chapter has purchased display cases and plans to make other contributions as needs arise.

Some of our members took part in the Christmas Count and May Counts.

Our membership is presently 123. Approximately 70 members attend the regular meetings.

*Eldred Johnson, President*

#### HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

Members and friends of the Howard County Chapter began the season in September with a slide lecture on marshes by President Bodenstein. Many of the subsequent monthly programs were given by chapter members. Examples are the "Clegg's Alaskan Adventure" and Steve Simon's "Birds at the Feeder." Steve's 16mm movies of feeder birds were nothing short of fantastic. Bill Shirey, President of Frederick County Chapter, gave us an interesting lecture demonstration on reptiles.

Field trips, usually two per month, were about equally divided between local and more distant trips. Our traditional Washington's Birthday 3-day trip to the lower Eastern Shore was a great success as usual. Also, we made an October shorebird trip to Brigantine and Cape May, New Jersey. Two new varieties of trips were held this year, a winter tree identification trip planned by Colin Munro and a fern walk in southern Howard County led by Jo Solem.

This is the 5th year of the chapter's existence and in this time we have developed a kind of personality or character. Some of the things that have evolved are a stable membership of around 70 with at least half of the membership attending each meeting. Our extensive chapter newsletter usually includes several original articles by members as well as quizzes, almanac items, book reviews and the usual news of field trips and meetings. Also, our own slide shows which are given to various groups throughout the county have continued to improve as members have submitted better slides. The slide shows on Shore Birds, Feeder Birds, and Winter Birds of Howard County and the new show on wild flowers have been very popular. Our annual spring indoor workshop at the Glen Elg Country School sponsored with the Patuxent Chapter was again well attended and included exhibits of wildlife arts and crafts as a new feature.

*Ben Dawson, President*

## KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent Chapter regretfully accepted the resignation in October, 1976, of Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson from the office of the Presidency because of failing health.

An exciting event was the return of the magnificent mounted Bald Eagle to Mrs. Dorothy Mendinhall's home and Banding Station, Damsite near Tolchester, Md. The eagle was found dead in nearby Quaker Neck last year by the Motter family. It was later determined that the bird had died naturally of pneumonia. The mounted mature eagle is a spectacle to see!

While our membership boasts a list of 80 persons, active participation is enjoyed by only an interested few.

Outdoor activities included two field trips: one in November to Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge where we surveyed a variety of waterfowl, and one on April 30 to the Millington Wildlife Management Area where we studied migrating warblers under our own capable Floyd Park's leadership.

Four "special programs" featured experts from the field of wildlife and ornithology: On a rare visit away from his job as curator of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Daniel Gibson, Jr. (the fledgling founder of the Kent Chapter in 1957) presented a delightful slide talk on September 22 on "Birds of Southwestern Alaska. Dan Jr. is active as a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for whom he spends half of his time in the field.

Dr. William Sladen of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation captivated the Chapter and guests on November 3 with an evening dinner-program presentation of slides and discussion (prior to his leaving for Siberia) on "Swan and Snow Geese Studies in Alaska, Siberia, and the Chesapeake Bay." Dr. Sladen honored us with a program on a previous occasion, and several of our members have become adoptive "parents" of swans in the Swan Research Program.

Dr. Joseph Linduska, former director at the Remington Farms, biologist with the Department of Interior, (presently working to "preserve the last wilderness frontier left in America") presented an outstanding slide-narration to us on March 2 on the proposed "New National Park, Wildlife Refuge and Wild and Scenic River areas in Alaska."

Last of our special features were Dr. Heathcote Kimball and his wife Sabra, who presented to us their personally recorded warbler calls on tape together with marvelous slides of warblers. Dr. Kimball who photographs birds and his wife who paints them are exemplary of the hosts of personal talents that have contributed to the field of ornithology.

Birding on a more informal note was done at three "morning coffee watches" at the homes of Mrs. Helen Gibson, Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson, and Mrs. Margaret Blair. These get-togethers provided genuine fellowship

for those who came to share tidbits of bird talk over tasty buns and coffee. The Christmas and Spring Counts were pursued by the regular enthusiasts and a few new people.

As we continue into a new year and our 20th anniversary, our biggest challenge is to fill our ranks with new persons who might become as dedicated as our predecessors. We are hopeful that we can meet the challenge.

*Fat Wilson*, President, pro tem

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

The Montgomery County Chapter had a lively year marked by increased participation in field trips, a vigorous program in bird banding, and a series of exceptionally interesting speakers at our monthly meetings.

As usual the most successful of the field trips was the traditional Cape May weekend in late September, but turnouts were also good for a merry Thanksgiving trip to the Outer Banks and a late February Delmarva coastal weekend. One-day and half-day trips were rained out more often than seems fair, but two trips or so a month drew an average of eleven birders to such spots as Point of Rocks, Wagoner's Gap, Sandy Point, the Delaware refuges, and, by no means least, the National Zoo. Planning and promotion by an efficient pair of field trip chairmen, Minette McCullough and Lola Oberman, did much to reverse a long decline in attendance.

The banding station at Adventure flourished under Margaret Donald's leadership, with eleven banders and 26 assistants sharing the job of manning the nets daily during migration, giving 21 demonstrations to nearly 300 visitors, including a crew from WRC-TV and guests from as far away as Sweden, Holland, and England. Another 200 people dropped in on the banders on a less formal basis, indicating that this is the single organized chapter activity providing pleasure and enlightenment to more members of the birding and general public than any other.

Thanks to efforts by Kathy Klimkiewicz, our program chairman, we learned the subtleties of identifying fall warblers from Chan Robbins in September, the pleasures of listing from Dave Holmes and Floyd Murdoch in October, "Peregrines and Pesticides," covering the activities supported by the Peregrine Fund from Prescott Ward in November, and the life history of the Purple Martin from Kathy herself in December. Our January Social was bumped from the usual third Thursday by Inauguration Day, but 88 members enjoyed each other's company and slides and the smooth-running feast chaired by Linda and Ken LaBorde. In February Wayne Klockner told us about the Survey of Areas of Critical Concern in Maryland, and in March Tom Custer discussed the breeding biology of the Lapland Longspur. Our two final programs were presentations by two of the chapter's finest photographers, Bill Oberman on "Fauna and Flora of the Rockies" in April and Rich Rowlett on "Exploring and Birding the North Carolina Outer Banks" in May.

Among many members making major contributions to the success of chapter activities, special credit is due to Bob Hahn for the latest of many...

years' responsibility for the Youth Group and for editorship and production of the chapter newsletter, and to Helen Meleney for executing the tedious chore of preparing and maintaining the members' directory. Bill Oberman as always organized and compiled the Seneca Christmas Count, which was followed by a splendid Tally Rally provided by Mieke Mehlman. Evan Hannay took over co-ordination of the May Count this year. Both counts continued the tradition of thorough coverage and broad participation by the members that conscientious organization has yielded in the past.

*Claudia Wilds*, President

#### PATUXENT CHAPTER

Business continued as usual during the past year. Probably the most significant change was the inauguration of a monthly newsletter, which has stimulated interest and increased attendance. Otherwise, we had eight scheduled meetings with lively speakers and an annual picnic in June. We wish to thank the following speakers who gave freely of their time and efforts: Dr. William Bodenstein, Dr. Bill Oberman, Dr. Donald Messersmith, Wayne Klockner, Luther Goldman, Rich Rowlett, Dr. David Farr and Floyd Murdoch and Dave Holmes. More people came to the February meeting to hear Luther Goldman than we have as members! Several field trips were scheduled and a few, including a stay at Carey Run, were quite successful. In addition, members participated extensively in activities such as the Christmas Counts, May Count, and Atlas projects.

*Paul Bystrak*, President

#### TALBOT COUNTY BIRD CLUB

We held monthly meetings from September through April. Some of our outstanding programs were: "Birds of Paraguay and Brazil," and "Guatemala: Land of the Maya and Quetzal" by one of our own members, Dr. Robert Trever; "Guess A Bird" by Dr. William G. Bodenstein, which was a lot of fun and humbled us a bit; "Seabirds and Marine Mammals off Ocean City" by Richard A. Rowlett; and "Fun and Games" which turned out to be a form of "It's Academic"--the two teams scored a tie. A series of five Audubon Wildlife Films was shown.

Members participated in five fall and four spring breakfast hikes. We traveled to Hawk Mountain, Ocean City and Brigantine for our field trips. Our Christmas Count was held Dec. 19th with 101 species seen.

One of our members, Robin Wightman, was selected for the Helen Miller Scholarship Award.

*Mrs. John W. Ropes*, President

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

The Washington County Chapter entered its seventh year with membership having grown to 78.



Meetings occur monthly, September through May, at the Emma K. Doub School and began this year with a lively program by Mildred Bender of the Conococheague Naturalists. She had a slide/tape program identifying birds by their sounds and this was followed by all the members taking a written quiz. Hooper Wolfe, author of "I Drove Mules on the C&O Canal" reminisced with slides about the canal. This was followed by our own Charlie Brightbill's program on his trip to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Maryland State Forester, Ron Antill, presented a film program on forestry practices in Maryland. The following month, our members own slide program, which has become a tradition, was interesting. Next Ken Gabler, Conococheague Naturalist, gave a program on an African Bird Safari. Ken and several friends, including our Genevieve Beck, made a recent trip to Africa. Truman Doyle presented the last program with more of his beautiful wildflowers, this time from Hawaii. Attendance at the monthly meetings is consistently good.

Fourteen field trips were held with small but very enthusiastic turnouts. An auto trip to look for the season's "goodies" was the most successful field trip this year with over 30 birders participating.

In October we were honored to host the Fall Trustees Meeting which was held in Hagerstown for the first time.

Participation in the Christmas and May Counts is always good and continued to be so this year. A reporter from the local paper joined us this year and gave us a great full page write-up with pictures.

Members are kept posted of unusual sightings in the monthly newsletter and, of course, our unofficial hot line is always operating.

Some members are participating in the Washington County Breeding Bird Atlas under Daniel Boone's able direction. We have two more years to go on this and hopefully, participation will pick up.

The chapter installed two birding displays at the Winch House at Dam #4 on the C&O Canal and at the local electric utility's office building.

At least a dozen members maintain bluebird trails with boxes provided by the chapter.

Our year terminates in June with a picnic in the delightful backyard, a beautiful wildlife habitat, of the Don Cutchalls. More accurately, we were rained out but had a most enjoyable picnic in the barn.

*Robert Keedy, President*

#### WICOMICO CHAPTER

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, a dinner meeting was held for the first time and with such success that the dinner is to be repeated each year in November. Mrs. Ruth Denit, Secretary, did such a marvelous job of organizing the dinner that she was delegated to be in charge of

this next dinner. To highlight the dinner program, Ed Unger, who helped organize the chapter ten years ago, presented slides of his trip to the Arctic where he added 34 birds to his life list.

Our three main projects were again very successful with: (1) the sales booth at the Annual Atlantic Flyway Wildlife Carving and Arts Exhibit netting the chapter over \$500 thanks to chairman Gail Vaughn and others, (2) the improvements to Irish Grove Sanctuary such as a new gate and painting of the screened picnic area thanks to chairman Bob Reynolds and others, and (3) the construction of 62 bluebird boxes from lumber salvaged from the landfill, thanks to chairman Bill Johnson and others. The chapter's Bluebird Trail in Somerset County consists of over 60 boxes, monitored by Bob Reynolds.

Monthly meetings from September through May had a field trip following each meeting. Two of the meetings consisted of films, "Land of the Drowned River" and "Billion Dollar Marsh." In January, an interesting slide presentation of the Pocomoke River and Its Environment was given by Joe Fehrer of Snow Hill, Md. He is probably the person most versed on this river, one of Maryland's designated Scenic Rivers. He showed slides of the Oxbow, a section of the river that was cut off when the river was straightened by dragline some years ago.

This presentation of the Pocomoke River was in preparation for a spring field trip by canoe and in quest of the Prothonotary Warbler. Our field trip was, of course, begun on the Oxbow near Whiton, Md. There were six canoes and 19 bird watchers including our experienced guide, Joe Fehrer. We canoed around the Oxbow which is a fantastic area for bird watching due to its openness rather than the tree canopy cover of the main river channel. Immediately after entering the area, we were welcomed by many songs of the Prothonotary, and during the trip, we must have heard and sighted hundreds of these beautiful yellow warblers.

Recently, what is locally known as the Weir has been opened sufficiently to allow small boats to travel to the lower section of the river. By a short portage from the Oxbow to the channel, we then traveled through the opened weir to the natural river channel below and thence to Porter's Crossing where we disembarked, making for a most enjoyable birdwatching trip of 7 hours duration.

Mr. Fehrer has a rate schedule for guiding canoe trips down the Pocomoke. For old friends, new friends, environmentalists, artists, authors, teachers, students, clergy and conservationists the fee is "no charge." For oil and power company executives, lumber barons, realtors, speculators, and related types and some politicians the fee is \$5000 per day. However, exceptions to the latter are negotiable.

In line with our field trip along the chapter's Bluebird Trail in Somerset County, we were fortunate to have Dr. Larry Zeleny present his fascinating close-up slides of the bluebirds that he raised. The subsequent trip on April 3 along our trail of some 60 boxes should have

turned up many birds but not one bluebird was sighted, much to the disappointment of everyone. It is feared that the cold winter may have hurt them. At the time of this writing, May 16, Bob Reynolds, who is in charge of the trail, has seen only one bluebird. During the summer of 1975, our trail produced 10 fledglings, and in 1976, there were 25 fledglings. Unless there is a late migration, we won't have any fledglings this summer of '77.

A very beautiful slide show was given by our Vice President Randy Stadler of birds that he photographed while visiting Florida. The excellent composition of his pictures reminded us that Randy at one time was studying to be a wildlife photographer.

For anyone who would like to increase his life list by visiting Mexico, the man to see is Dr. Bill Standaert, Professor at Salisbury State. He and his wife, Eleanor, presented the chapter with slides and narration of where and how to birdwatch in Mexico. They spent three summers camping in the three major areas of Mexico: East Coast, Mountains and West Coast. Their main emphasis was on being a healthy birdwatcher while visiting Mexico and that means buying only fresh fruits and eating out of cans they brought with them. They were never sick once. The Charlie Vaughns have been convinced that they must visit Mexico this summer.

The chapter also participated in the Delmarva Listers Trip, Wicomico Christmas Count, May Count, M.O.S. Convention in Ocean City and the Irish Grove Breeding Bird Foray.

*Maurice Davis*, President



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON COLOR-MARKED PURPLE MARTINS

A large scale continent-wide Purple Martin color-marking project was initiated in 1977. Observers are asked to look for and report any color-marked (plastic leg bands and/or wing tags) Purple Martins. Please record the color of the bands or wing tags, which leg they are on, age and/or sex (if either is known), where and when observed, and whether the bird was in a roost, staging flock, migratory flock or at a nest site (scouting or nesting?). We are especially interested in the movements of young birds and their return to the parent colony or nearby colonies. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to Ms. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland 20811.

### ANNOUNCING: FIELD LIST OF THE BIRDS OF MARYLAND

by Chandler S. Robbins and Danny Bystrak

Published April 1977 by M.O.S. 48 pp, 1 map

This is a complete list of the 374 Maryland species, with charts showing period of occurrence, extreme dates, relative abundance, egg dates, sections of the State where found, and preferred habitats. Both regular and casual breeding species are indicated. Space for recording 12 daily, monthly or yearly lists is provided. A map and brief descriptions of 50 choice birding areas are included. There is an index on the back cover. Price 60¢ from M.O.S. Bookstore, Cylburn Mansion.



## THE SEASON

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1977

*Chandler S. Robbins*

The historic winter of 1977 provided a dramatic change from the mild weather of the five previous years. Some of the more drastic effects of the hard freeze were described by various authors in the March 1977 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. Others will be noted in the following pages. Mean January temperatures ranged from 12° below normal in central and eastern Maryland to 16° below normal in Garrett County. At Savage River Dam, temperatures remained below freezing for the entire month of January. Even at Friendship Airport there were only two days when the mercury rose above 40°. At Frostburg there were eleven January mornings with below-zero temperatures (extremes, -25° and 21°). The first real thaw of the year occurred on Feb. 10, when the temperature rose into the fifties over most of Maryland (but only 33° at Deep Creek Lake). It was not until Feb. 23 and 24 that temperatures stayed above freezing for two nights in a row over much of the State. Then for five successive days the mercury rocketed into the low seventies in central Maryland and wiped out the temperature deficit for the month. Anyone reviewing monthly mean temperatures for Maryland a few decades from now would conclude that February 1977 was a perfectly normal month. In marked contrast to January and February, March was warm and pleasant, with a mean daily temperature excess of 6° to 8°. Precipitation was decidedly below normal in January and February--for which we are most grateful because it would not have come in the form of rain. March rainfall was close to normal.

We had hoped that we would reap a few side benefits from the unusually heavy mortality of wintering birds. For example, with many songbirds failing to survive the winter at the northern fringes of their ranges there was some hope that observers would be able to detect the first arrivals from farther south of such species as the Belted Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Although a few of the more astute observers did comment on the return of these species, most did not. One problem was that the mortality was so drastic that there were very few survivors left alive to be recorded. This was especially true of the kinglets. John Fales remarked that in his fifty years of birding this was the first time he failed to find kinglets during spring migration.

Because this is the last of my 116 consecutive Season reports in *Maryland Birdlife* I wish to take the opportunity to express my sincere

thanks to the hundreds of observers who have contributed their observations to this column over the past 30 years. Some observers and compilers must be singled out for the regularity and completeness of their reports, and I shall do this in the course of acknowledging contributions to the spring arrival date summary in Table 1:

Garrett County reports are meticulously compiled four times a year by Mrs. Frances Pope, who submits comments on almost every species as well as listing all arrival and departure dates. Allegany County observations come chiefly from Jim Paulus, Dottie Malec, and the banding stations of John Willetts and Ken Hodgdon; most of these same members also report occasionally from Carey Run Sanctuary and elsewhere in eastern Garrett County. Washington County notes come from Dan Boone, and from time to time from the Keedys, Cutchalls, and Mrs. Alice Mallonee. Fredrick County records have been coming regularly from the pen of Dr. John Richards of Emmitsburg for over 25 years, supplemented from time to time by notes from Bill Shirey, Charley Mullican and a few others. Carroll County is a newcomer to our table, thanks to a compilation from Erik Blom, incorporating contributions from Steve Hardiman, James Stasz, Robert Ringler, James Orgain, and David Williams.

Baltimore City and County have a small core of diligent reporters plus a large number of active observers who never bother to submit notes. The same few names occur repeatedly in these summaries: Peggy Bohanan, Gladys Cole, Janet Ganter, Haven Kolb, Marion Glass, and Joseph Schreiber some additional observations are gleaned from Baltimore Chapter field trip reports. Recent compilations by Rick Blom, including birds seen by the Carroll County crew plus the following members have greatly improved coverage of the Baltimore area: Robert Augustine, Benton Basham, Eddie Boyd, John Cullom, Chuck Graham, Peter Knight, Mike Resch, Steven Sapperstein, Ann Wilder, and John Wortman.

Harford County has never been a strong source of reports, but renewed activity since acquisition of the Suden Sanctuary has inspired coverage by Joe Schreiber, John Wortman, and Chuck Graham. Howard County receives regular coverage from Joanne Solem, Mark Wallace, Rosamond Munro and Dorothy Rauth, and less frequent correspondence from V. Krishnamoorthy, David Holmes, Stephen Simon, and Chan Robbins. Montgomery is one of the best worked counties, but one that is poorly reported. Mrs. Margaret Donnalld, leader of the banding program at Adventure, submits the best compilation of Montgomery records. Robert Warfield of Germantown and Herbert Douglas are the other regular correspondents in that county. Paul Woodward of Reston, Va., frequently sends in extensive Montgomery County records.

Sam Droege, Danny Bystrak, Leonard Teuber, Paul Nistico, Elwood Martin, Herb Douglas, and Brooke Meanley are regular Prince Georges correspondents. The most detailed notes for Anne Arundel County come from Hal Wierenga; Danny Bystrak and Ellen Gizzarelli also report regularly from this county, and Mark Hoffman does also when he is not away at college.

Table 1. Earliest Spring Arrival Dates, 1977

Species	Median 5-yr 1977	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	LES
Red-necked Grebe	-- 2/22	0	0	3/23	0	3/25	2/18	0	0	0	2/20	2/22	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horned Grebe	3/30 3/12	3/28	3/23	0	0	3/26	2/19	0	3/12	3/20	2/20	2/22	W	3/10	W	0	W	W
Pied-billed Grebe	3/23 3/18	3/19	3/18	3/21	4/ 1	3/20	2/17	3/19	3/12	3/ 1	2/26	3/17	3/15	4/ 3	3/17	0	--	--
Great Blue Heron	3/18 3/15	3/21	--	3/21	W	--	3/12	3/19	4/ 2	3/20	3/10	3/12	2/10	3/ 7	--	3/15	--	--
Cattle Egret	4/25 4/ 5	0	0	0	5/ 7	0	3/27	0	0	0	4/11	3/22	0	4/ 5	4/ 5	4/27	3/30	3/27
Whistling Swan	3/14 3/ 2	3/18	3/18	2/24	0	3/ 5	3/ 9	2/ 5	3/ 6	2/14	2/27	2/25	W	2/10	W	3/16	W	W
Canada Goose	3/12 2/27	2/13	3/18	0	3/12	2/27	2/20	W	2/20	2/27	2/12	2/24	2/24	3/ 2	W	3/31	W	W
Gadwall	-- 3/ 3	0	0	0	0	3/ 6	2/11	3/12	2/ 6	0	3/ 1	3/ 5	0	0	0	0	0	W
Common Pintail	3/ 8 2/27	0	0	3/12	3/ 9	3/ 3	2/26	2/25	0	3/ 1	--	2/20	0	0	2/11	0	0	W
Green-winged Teal	3/22 3/ 6	3/19	0	2/24	5/ 3	3/26	3/ 2	3/19	0	3/ 1	3/ 3	2/13	0	0	3/ 8	--	--	W
Blue-winged Teal	3/22 3/21	3/20	4/ 5	3/21	3/29	3/26	3/13	3/27	0	3/ 1	3/ 6	3/13	3/15	0	3/25	--	0	4/ 3
American Wigeon	3/10 2/27	3/16	3/18	0	3/10	2/27	2/26	--	3/12	2/14	2/27	2/11	W	--	2/16	3/14	W	W
Northern Shoveler	-- 3/17	4/13	3/18	0	0	2/27	3/27	0	0	3/16	2/17	0	4/ 7	0	2/14	0	0	--
Wood Duck	3/10 2/27	3/11	4/ 4	2/23	3/ 9	3/ 5	2/25	2/27	--	2/26	2/27	2/26	3/ 8	3/25	3/ 2	3/26	0	4/ 7
Redhead	-- 3/ 8	3/15	0	3/ 3	0	3/ 6	3/ 4	W	0	0	0	0	0	3/19	3/ 8	3/12	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	3/14 2/27	3/11	3/18	3/12	0	2/27	2/12	3/12	2/27	2/14	2/17	2/13	2/23	0	3/ 4	--	3/ 5	0
Canvasback	-- 3/10	3/11	3/18	0	0	3/ 3	3/ 2	0	3/14	0	0	3/10	0	3/ 9	0	3/10	0	0
Lesser Scaup	3/14 3/ 9	3/15	3/23	2/12	0	3/28	2/26	0	0	3/ 3	0	W	0	W	0	--	0	0
Bufflehead	3/12 3/16	3/14	3/18	0	5/ 7	3/ 7	3/11	W	3/18	0	0	W	0	3/19	0	3/12	0	W
Oldsquaw	-- 3/14	3/28	3/18	0	0	0	3/10	0	0	3/20	0	3/ 9	0	2/25	0	0	0	W
Ruddy Duck	-- --	0	4/ 5	0	0	3/17	3/18	0	3/12	0	0	W	0	0	0	0	0	W
Hooded Merganser	-- 3/11	3/11	3/18	3/21	0	3/ 5	2/11	3/19	W	W	3/ 5	0	--	2/28	2/23	3/23	0	3/26
Common Merganser	-- 3/12	3/22	4/ 5	W	3/12	3/ 5	2/26	W	--	2/12	0	0	0	0	3/17	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	-- 3/16	3/14	3/18	0	0	3/ 5	3/17	0	0	2/14	4/12	3/14	0	4/ 9	0	0	0	W
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-- 3/11	--	--	3/21	--	0	2/25	3/27	2/14	W	W	3/11	--	2/17	3/15	3/ 5	--	4/ 8
Red-tailed Hawk	-- 2/26	--	W	W	W	2/28	3/ 6	W	2/26	W	W	2/ 9	W	2/ 7	W	W	W	W
Northern Harrier	-- --	--	--	--	W	--	2/12	--	--	--	--	2/20	2/26	--	--	0	--	W
Osprey	3/27 3/29	4/16	0	0	3/29	0	4/ 4	0	4/16	4/ 2	3/11	3/10	3/ 1	4/ 9	3/15	3/ 9	4/ 2	3/26
American Kestrel	-- 3/ 1	3/14	--	3/21	W	W	3/ 1	W	2/ 9	W	3/12	2/23	W	2/13	W	W	W	W
American Coot	-- 3/10	3/17	3/18	3/21	3/29	3/ 5	3/11	3/ 1	0	2/26	3/ 9	2/20	--	2/25	3/10	--	3/20	W
Killdeer	2/26 2/28	2/21	3/12	3/ 8	--	2/24	2/12	3/12	3/ 5	2/24	2/27	2/11	--	2/28	3/ 1	3/30	--	W

Species	Median 5-yr 1977		Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	LES
American Woodcock	2/29	2/27	2/24	--	--	--	--	2/27	3/30	2/24	3/ 1	2/24	2/25	3/ 8	2/26	2/17	--	3/ 5	W
Common Snipe	3/10	3/ 8	3/29	0	0	3/ 9	3/22	3/ 6	2/28	0	3/ 1	2/22	2/24	0	3/ 9	3/10	--	0	W
Greater Yellowlegs	4/ 1	3/24	5/ 2	--	--	3/10	--	3/16	3/21	--	3/31	3/27	3/13	--	4/15	3/21	3/26	3/22	3/26
Ring-billed Gull	3/15	2/26	3/19	--	2/24	3/ 9	2/27	2/17	W	2/13	2/12	2/27	W	W	3/ 6	2/25	--	W	W
Bonaparte's Gull	--	3/19	3/18	3/18	0	0	3/20	3/12	0	3/27	0	3/29	2/22	0	0	0	0	0	3/26
Belted Kingfisher	--	3/14	3/17	3/18	--	3/29	--	3/12	W	--	2/26	2/27	3/12	--	4/ 3	--	--	--	--
Common Flicker	3/18	3/18	3/28	3/18	--	4/ 2	--	3/20	W	3/ 4	3/29	3/12	W	W	3/ 1	2/24	W	W	W
Eastern Phoebe	3/19	3/18	3/17	3/18	3/21	3/24	3/22	3/15	3/27	3/12	2/27	3/ 5	3/10	3/ 8	3/28	3/19	3/11	0	3/26
Tree Swallow	3/31	3/26	3/29	3/19	3/21	3/29	0	4/ 2	0	3/28	3/11	3/10	3/17	4/ 7	3/26	3/17	4/ 8	4/ 2	3/26
Barn Swallow	4/ 8	4/ 7	4/16	4/ 5	--	4/ 9	--	4/ 2	--	--	4/ 2	3/27	4/10	4/ 7	3/29	4/ 9	4/ 7	4/ 2	4/ 7
Purple Martin	3/27	3/28	4/24	--	--	3/29	--	4/ 8	--	3/17	4/ 3	3/21	3/30	--	3/28	3/17	3/14	3/29	3/20
Fish Crow	3/14	2/27	0	0	--	--	2/24	2/27	W	2/21	--	2/27	2/13	3/ 1	3/ 9	3/ 2	--	--	W
American Robin	2/23	2/11	3/ 2	--	3/ 8	1/29	--	2/11	2/ 3	1/30	2/ 4	2/19	2/24	2/23	1/31	2/11	W	W	W
Eastern Bluebird	2/25	3/ 5	3/12	--	--	W	W	3/ 1	3/ 1	3/ 6	3/ 5	2/27	3/ 6	2/24	--	W	3/ 5	--	3/ 6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	3/12	0	3/19	0	3/19	3/31	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Pipit	--	3/ 9	3/19	0	0	4/ 9	0	3/17	0	0	3/ 6	3/ 9	2/11	0	0	2/11	--	0	--
Cedar Waxwing	2/25	2/26	--	--	3/29	--	3/ 6	2/25	3/13	2/26	2/19	2/ 5	--	2/23	W	--	0	--	--
Pine Warbler	3/31	3/12	0	0	0	0	0	3/14	0	0	0	3/ 9	3/11	3/ 8	3/ 8	--	3/19	4/ 3	4/ 7
Red-winged Blackbird	2/22	2/23	3/ 3	--	2/22	3/ 3	2/24	2/19	W	2/13	2/16	2/26	2/24	W	2/ 9	W	W	W	W
Rusty Blackbird	3/ 8	3/ 6	3/17	0	3/ 3	3/29	3/ 6	2/25	3/27	2/ 7	3/ 1	3/10	3/12	--	3/ 5	--	--	--	--
Common Grackle	2/24	2/24	3/ 3	--	2/24	2/23	2/27	2/11	W	2/ 2	2/24	2/12	2/24	2/24	2/21	2/15	W	W	W
Brown-headed Cowbird	3/ 4	2/25	3/19	3/22	2/11	W	2/28	2/26	W	2/ 4	2/24	3/12	2/24	--	W	2/ 1	W	W	W
Evening Grosbeak	2/ 2	2/ 7	3/ 2	W	W	1/21	0	W	W	2/ 7	W	1/ 8	W	0	0	0	--	3/ 5	W
Purple Finch	2/23	--	--	--	--	1/21	0	2/20	W	3/ 4	W	2/10	W	0	0	0	--	0	W
House Finch	--	3/ 2	2/23	W	W	W	0	3/16	W	2/25	2/14	3/27	W	0	0	W	3/ 7	W	W
Rufous-sided Towhee	3/18	3/24	3/19	3/31	3/31	--	--	3/12	W	3/20	3/15	3/27	--	--	3/30	3/13	W	W	4/ 3
Savannah Sparrow	3/28	3/16	4/16	--	--	4/ 9	2/28	3/16	4/19	3/15	--	3/27	2/13	--	3/ 9	2/23	W	--	4/ 8
Vesper Sparrow	3/30	4/12	5/ 7	--	--	--	--	4/12	--	--	3/16	0	0	0	4/ 3	0	--	0	4/16
Northern Junco	--	--	3/14	W	W	W	W	2/28	W	W	W	3/12	W	W	3/ 4	W	W	W	W
Chipping Sparrow	3/31	3/26	--	--	3/ 4	--	--	--	3/15	3/17	4/19	3/18	4/12	4/12	--	4/ 3	3/19	--	4/ 2
Fox Sparrow	3/ 4	2/26	3/ 6	3/ 4	3/ 8	2/25	3/ 6	2/24	2/26	2/14	--	2/26	2/13	0	2/28	0	2/25	0	W
Song Sparrow	3/ 9	2/25	2/20	--	W	W	3/ 5	2/24	W	2/26	W	2/10	W	W	3/ 5	W	W	W	W



Nearly all of the Calvert County observations are submitted by John Fales of Plum Point. Charles County owes its place in the tables to the regular summaries from George Wilmot and Leonard Teuber, and occasional reports from Karen Miles. There are no regular observers in St. Marys, Cecil, or Queen Annes Counties.

On the Eastern Shore, Kent records are gathered and summarized by Dorothy Mendinhall and Floyd Parks; Caroline records are presently compiled by Roberta Fletcher, but for many years had been collected by Alicia O'C. Knotts; a bound volume of Caroline quarterly summaries dating back to 1950 is on file in the bird library at Patuxent. Jerry and Roberta Fletcher, Mrs. Knotts, Marvin Hewitt, and Ethel Engle are the most regular contributors from Caroline County. Talbot records come primarily from Jan Reese of St. Michaels and Henry Armistead of Bellevue. Armistead is the only regular reporter from Dorchester County, and he also submits records from Somerset County; most of the other Somerset sightings are from visitors to Irish Grove Wildlife Sanctuary. Wicomico County depends primarily on Charles and Gail Vaughn, Dave Saveikis and Randy Stadler. Worcester, our only coastal county, is the most exciting birding county in Maryland. Robert Warfield regularly submits careful notes each summer, and Richard Rowlett reports his coastal and off-shore observations in great detail. Mary Humphreys, Peggy Bohanan, Eddie Slaughter, Paul DuMont, and Mark Hoffman contribute notes from time to time, but I fear many of the coastal sightings go unrecorded--except during the MOS Convention weekend each May.

Loons and Grebes. Loons as well as other water birds were frozen out of the upper Chesapeake from early January until the last week of February. The first 2 Common Loons that appeared at Rocky Point Park, Baltimore, on Feb. 26 were either wandering birds or individuals returning to feed in areas from which the ice had driven them (Rick Blom). The first true migrants were found at Deep Creek Lake on Mar. 21 (Mrs. Cook), in Dorchester County on Mar. 26 (Harry Armistead), and at Sandy Point State Park on Mar. 27 (Hal Wierenga). The discovery of 2 Red-necked Grebes at Hawkins Point, Baltimore on Feb. 18 by Jim Stasz immediately triggered a search in other open-water areas for this elusive species. On Feb. 19 Messrs. Stasz, Blom, Ringler, Resch, and others combed the Baltimore Harbor and Back and Middle River areas and discovered 12 different birds; Blom estimated that at least 26 different individuals had been seen in the Baltimore area by the end of March. On the Potomac River between Oxon Hill and Fort Washington Leonard Teuber found up to 5 Red-necked Grebes from Feb. 20 to Mar. 14. In the Annapolis area the first Red-neck was found at Sandy Point on the same day as the first Horned Grebe, Feb. 22 (Wierenga), and the highest Red-neck tally for the county was 3 birds in the South River on Mar. 7 (Tibbie Stevenson, Scott Mele, Danny Bystrak, and Hal Wierenga). There were few reports of Red-necked Grebes away from tidewater--probably largely because reservoirs remained frozen so late in the season--but at Piney Run Reservoir in Carroll County Rick Blom found 2 Red-necks on Mar. 25, one of which remained until the next day. Another was seen at Loch Raven on Mar. 31 (Michael Resch). The origin of midwinter and early spring invasions of Red-necked Grebes into our area every 10 or 20 years has not



been satisfactorily explained, but I suspect they are birds that normally winter offshore in the Great Lakes and that it is only in exceptionally cold winters that they migrate south. **Horned Grebes** were among the species frozen out of their usual winter haunts in the Maryland bays. Returning birds were noted in tidewater on Feb. 20 at Oxon Hill (Teuber) and Feb. 22 at Sandy Point (Wierenga), and farther inland at Seneca on Mar. 20 (Robert Warfield), Allegany County on Mar. 23 (Dorothea Malec), Carroll County on Mar. 26 (Mike Resch), and Broadford Reservoir near Mountain Lake Park on Mar. 28 (8 birds by Fran Pope). A very few **Pied-billed Grebes** returned to Maryland in February; it was not until mid-March that they became generally distributed.

Pelican and Cormorants. A **Brown Pelican** seen at Assateague Island on Jan. 27 by Mary Humphreys was the first winter sighting for Maryland. The only cormorants reported from Maryland during the three-month period were 9 **Great Cormorants** on the Point Lookout Christmas Count, Jan. 2, and a low count of **Double-crested Cormorants** at Hoopers Island on Mar. 26 (Armistead and Jared Sparks).

Hérons and Ibis. The last inland heron sighted was a **Great Blue** in Frederick County on Jan. 21 (Charles Mullican). The only herons of any species reported from anywhere in the State in February were 5 **Great Blues** flying toward the big Nanjemoy Creek heronry in Charles County on Feb. 10 (Karen Miles). Returning **Great Blues** in other counties are well documented in Table 1. The general scarcity of **Great Blue Herons** even after the thaw is reflected in Mike Resch's comment that he saw only one **Great Blue** at Loch Raven in the three-month period. **Cattle Egrets** arrived in four Coastal Plain counties in late March, with the earliest arrival at Sandy Point State Park on Mar. 22 (Hal Wierenga). **Great Egrets** turned up first at their Barren Island nesting colony in Dorchester County, where Armistead and Sparks counted 6 birds on Mar. 26. Three days later an early bird reached Frederick County (Charles Mullican), and on the 30th there was one in Talbot County (Kathy Riddle). A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** returned to Lake Roland in Baltimore County during the heat wave on Mar. 28, breaking the State arrival record by three days; Steve Sapperstein watched it feeding on earthworms with a flock of robins in the picnic area. Single **American Bitterns** that attempted to winter in tidewater Maryland were last seen in early January; one in the Choptank River marsh at Tanyard in Caroline County was last found on Jan. 5 (Mrs. Ethel Engle), and one at frozen Sandy Point State Park could not be found after Jan. 8 (Wierenga). The first spring arrival noted was at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Mar. 30 (Elwood Martin). The only **Glossy Ibis** for March was one at Sandy Point on the 27th (Wierenga).

Swans. **Whistling Swans** reappeared gradually in their normal wintering areas in tidewater Maryland as the ice receded; Floyd Parks noted the first birds with numbered North Carolina neck collars in Kent County on Feb. 11. The first inland sightings were at Hughes Hollow near Seneca in Montgomery County on Feb. 14 (Paul Woodward) and in Washington County on Feb. 24 (Bob and Mary Keedy). Both **Whistling** and **Mute Swans** were found on Piney Run Reservoir in Carroll County on Mar. 5 (Rick Blom).

The major migratory movement of Whistling Swans out of Maryland occurred during the period Mar. 10-18, with a final heavy flight over Annapolis (Hal Wierenga) and Bowie (Bob Nalley) on the night of Mar. 27. During the 3-day period of Mar. 10-12, Baltimore observers recorded a total of 1,900 migrants.

Geese. Canada Geese were on the move earlier than usual (see Table 1). An extraordinarily early individual that dropped into a motel parking lot near Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County on Feb. 13 was fed and remained in the area as late as Mar. 7--when, according to Fran Pope, it resisted capture attempts by wildlife officers! The first big flights to go north past Sandy Point State Park were on Feb. 24 (an estimated 1,000 birds) and Feb. 27 (1,500 birds--Hal Wierenga). A flock of 70 over Germantown on Feb. 27 provided Robert Warfield's first February observation for that area of Montgomery County; a large flock passed over downtown Baltimore on the same day (Peggy Bohanan). Snow Goose arrivals were reported as follows: a flock of 11 flying northwest over Cockeysville on the very early date of Feb. 7 (Blom); first arrivals in Kent County on Feb. 11 and large mixed flocks of white and blue phases there on Feb. 18 (Floyd Parks); and 3 white birds at Sandy Point State Park on Mar. 28 (Wierenga).

Ducks. Table 1 contains more waterfowl arrival dates than usual because ice had driven most wintering birds out of their normal Maryland haunts. Many ducks that had attempted to winter met with disaster; Hal Wierenga observed gulls feeding on large numbers of carcasses of diving ducks frozen in the ice off Sandy Point. Blom and others found at least 21 species of waterfowl (swans, geese, and ducks) in Baltimore County and 20 at Piney Run Reservoir in Carroll County during the period. Farther west, Dorothea Malec reported arrival dates for 15 species of waterfowl in Allegany County; and, if we include a few April birds, Fran Pope found 19 species in Garrett County--primarily on Broadford Reservoir and the nearby Mountain Lake sewage lagoons, at Deep Creek Lake, and at Herrington Manor. Among 23 species of waterfowl seen in Dorchester County on Mar. 26 by Harry Armistead and Jared Sparks were 350 Surf Scoters. At Ocean City inlet King and Common Eiders reached peak counts of 2 each on Feb. 6 (Wierenga) and there were 2 Harlequin Ducks on Jan. 22 (Bob Ringler) and Feb. 6 (Wierenga).

Vultures and Hawks. Turkey and Black Vultures vacated most of northern and central Maryland during the deep freeze. Mike Resch observed that the Loch Raven roost, which contained 35 Black Vultures the previous winter, was empty this year until the end of March. The first 3 Turkey Vultures returned to Sandy Point on Feb. 20 (Wierenga), and 1 went over Mountain Lake Park on Mar. 3 (Mrs. Pope). Just before sunset on Mar. 6 Bob and Mary Keedy sighted a "kettle" of Turkey and Black Vultures over the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry; numbers were not given, but Turkeys exceeded Blacks. Resch saw a Northern Goshawk over his Parkville home on Feb. 27. Single Golden Eagles were seen in Talbot County (Feb. 5, Jan Reese and Kathy Riddle), Kent County (Mar. 28, Parks), and at Blackwater Refuge (Feb. 6, Wierenga). One of the male Peregrine Falcons raised at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology was

recognized by its orange wing tag at Sandy Point State Park on Jan. 6 and 27 (Wierenga). An unmarked Peregrine was studied at the South Baltimore Landfill on Jan. 19 (Jim Stasz and Resch) and Feb. 26 (Ringler). First arrival dates for spring migrant hawks were: Sharp-shinned Hawk in Baltimore County on Feb. 25 and Cooper's Hawk there on Mar. 10 (Blom), Osprey building at Rock Point in Charles County on Mar. 1 (Michael Smith), Red-shouldered Hawk along Snaggy Mountain Road in Garrett County on Mar. 14 (Mrs. Pope), and the following arrival dates at Sandy Point State Park: Red-tailed Hawk on Feb. 9 (4 birds), Red-shouldered on Feb. 19, Rough-legged Hawk on March 29, Bald Eagle on Mar. 3 (2 birds), Northern Harrier on Feb. 20, and American Kestrel on Feb. 23 (all by Hal Wierenga).

Gallinaceous Birds. Maryland Wildlife Administration personnel reported to Fran Pope that Ruffed Grouse in western Maryland fared well despite the severe winter, but Wild Turkey losses were high. Bobwhite mortality was high in all areas west of the Chesapeake; Mike Resch found no Common Bobwhites at all in the Loch Raven area.

Rails and Gallinules. Rails were among the birds hardest hit by the brutal winter. Ethel Engle had a Virginia Rail at Tanyard on Jan. 6 and Ranney Bunnell had one feeding along frozen Harris Creek at his home near Wittman in Talbot County through Jan. 13. Even though 13 Virginia Rails and 3 Soras had remained for the Annapolis Christmas Count, Dec. 26, repeated efforts by Hal Wierenga to locate some in January, February, and March failed. Harry Armistead dubbed this the worst railing spring of his experience for all species except possibly the King; 6 Virginias that he found at Hoopers Island on Mar. 26 are considered fresh arrivals from farther south, establishing an early arrival date for Maryland. A Common Gallinule found at West Ocean City on Jan. 28 by Mary Humphreys would be noteworthy in a normal year and was truly remarkable for the present season.

Oystercatchers. On Mar. 18 Hal Wierenga established several records when he discovered an American Oystercatcher at Sandy Point State Park. It was not only the first of the year for Maryland, but the first ever for Anne Arundel County and for Sandy Point, bringing to 38 species the number of shorebird species identified at the Park in the past two years! That will be a difficult record to break anywhere in the State. This sighting also constitutes the northernmost observation for Maryland and probably the farthest from the coast of any North American record. Another early oystercatcher was seen flying up the east shore of Chesapeake Bay at Hoopers Island on Mar. 26, the second record for that area and the earliest Dorchester County sighting by about two months (Armistead).

Plovers. In a normal year only a few observers are able to detect the first arrivals of Killdeer because of the problem of distinguishing spring migrants from wintering individuals. This year, however, very few Killdeer survived the critical January weather in Maryland and the earliest spring migrants were easily detected. The first birds came in with the first thaw, Feb. 11-12 in Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties, and on Feb. 21 Sheila Hughes found one near Grantsville in Garrett County. On Mar. 13 Hal Wierenga watched a Lesser Golden Plover while

it flew around over Sandy Point State Park for ten minutes, calling loudly; this species is only casual in Maryland in spring, and the date is not only the earliest for Maryland, but one of the earliest for the United States. Bent (USNM Bull. 146, 1927) cited only one earlier record east of the Appalachians.

Sandpipers. Eight species of sandpipers arrived in non-coastal areas of Maryland in February or March (no Am. Woodcock reached Maryland in January this year). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were first seen in Frederick County, Mar. 10 (Charles Mullican). The first American Woodcock noted were in Kent County on Feb. 17 (Floyd Parks), and the first Common Snipe reported were on Feb. 22 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Prince Georges County near Laurel (Danny Bystrak). The high count for snipe was of 66 birds in Baltimore's Northeast Creek on Mar. 26 (Bob Ringler). Twenty Sanderlings were on Barren Island, off Hona in Dorchester County on Mar. 26 (Armistead and Sparks). The only March Least Sandpiper turned up in Frederick County on the 29th (Mullican). A very early Pectoral Sandpiper arrived in Oxon Hill on Mar. 9 (Leonard Teuber and Claudia Wilds) and 6 were in the Back River area on Mar. 19 (Ringler). Two Dunlins were at Sandy Point State Park on Jan. 4 and Jan. 6, but were not found subsequently (Wierenga); the next date submitted was Mar. 26 from Dorchester County (Armistead and Sparks). A possible Stilt Sandpiper reported on Mar. 21 is so far out of season for a casual spring transient that the description supplied by a single observer is not convincing; Bent (USNM Bull. 142, 1927) gives no East Coast arrivals earlier than May except for Florida.

Gulls. The January freeze created phenomenal concentrations of gulls in upper Chesapeake Bay. On Jan. 4 Hal Wierenga estimated 10,000 gulls on the ice off Sandy Point, and the number grew to 20,000, Jan. 8-9; these were mostly Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. The Sandy Point concentration declined thereafter and possibly contributed heavily to the February gatherings in the Baltimore Inner Harbor and at Back River. Details of the unprecedented invasion of gulls in the Baltimore area will appear as a separate paper by Jim Stasz and Rick Blom; suffice it to say for now that all rarities reported elsewhere in the State were also seen in Baltimore during this period. Single second-year Glaucous Gulls were seen at Sandy Point on Jan. 9, at Ocean City inlet on Jan. 22 (many observers) and Feb. 6 (Wierenga), and at West Ocean City on Feb. 6 (Wierenga); another Glaucous was at Conowingo Dam, Harford County, on Mar. 7 (Chuck Graham). Iceland Gulls were identified at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 8 (Graham and John Wortman) and at Sandy Point on Jan. 8-9 (1st winter plumage) and Mar. 13 (2nd winter--all by Wierenga). Greater Black-backed Gulls reached a peak of 300 at Sandy Point on Jan. 8 (Wierenga). Ring-billed Gulls began moving inland on Feb. 12-13, and by the end of that month had been seen by most observers; they were not found in Garrett County, however, until Mar. 19 when Fran Pope sighted 4 at Deep Creek Lake. The first 10 Laughing Gulls reached Sandy Point on Mar. 18 (Wierenga), immediately followed by others in Baltimore on the 19th (Ringler and others) and Dorchester County on the 20th (Kathy Riddle and Jan Reese). The large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls in Chesapeake Bay may reflect the severity of the winter weather or the Great

Lakes. Hal Wierenga noted his first Bony of the season at Sandy Point on Feb. 22, but it was not until mid-March that large concentrations moved up the Bay and into inland areas. Hal counted 504 birds flying north at Sandy Point on Mar. 13 and 575 on the 18th; on the latter date they also reached Allegany (Dorothea Malec) and Garrett Counties (Mrs. Pope). A Black-headed Gull approaching breeding plumage was found in Baltimore Harbor near South Baltimore General Hospital on Feb. 12 (Graham and Wortman).

Owls. A completely white Snowy Owl was approached as close as 50 yards at Churchville on Jan. 31 (Graham); this was the only confirmed sighting of the species in Maryland this winter. A red phase Screech Owl survived until at least Feb. 11 in a barn near Deep Creek Lake, but was found dead on Mar. 19 (Fran Pope). On Jan. 13 Jan Reese flushed a Long-eared Owl from a mature hemlock-spruce thicket on the grounds of the University of Maryland Environmental Center at Horn Point west of Cambridge; he reported that it was still there the following week. The two Long-ears that wintered at Sandy Point State Park were last viewed on Mar. 19 and Mar. 27 (Wierenga). According to Mr. Wierenga the northward migration of Barn Owls over Annapolis began on Mar. 3 (2 birds) and reached a peak of 29 birds in 2½ hours (9:30p.m. to midnight) on Mar. 15; the owls, calling in flight, were going over at a fairly constant rate of about 12 per hour. Up in Garrett County Fran Pope heard the first Barn Owl on Mar. 19 at Oakland.

Whip-poor-will, Hummingbird. On Mar. 29 Mrs. Ellen Gizzarelli heard a Whip-poor-will calling constantly for 15 minutes at Odenton--one of the few March arrivals for Maryland. Chuck Graham reported that a female hummingbird, presumably Ruby-throated, tried to fly into his greenhouse at Aberdeen on Mar. 27, six days ahead of the earliest Maryland record.

Kingfishers, Woodpeckers. Belted Kingfishers disappeared from most of their normal haunts during the deep freeze of January and early February. In most areas they did not reappear until mid-March, when within less than a week they arrived on breeding grounds throughout central and western Maryland. Their numbers, however, were noticeably below normal. Two hardy Red-headed Woodpeckers survived the winter near Gortner in Garrett County (Mrs. Pope). An early migrant was at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Mar. 5 (Elwood Martin).

Phoebes, Swallows. The Eastern Phoebe was one of the birds hard hit by the prolonged sub-freezing weather. The last one reported in January was seen on the 22nd at Douglas Point in southern Charles County (Calvert Posey, Karen Miles, and others). The only February sighting was on the 27th in Montgomery County (Herbert Douglas). Although there were several early arrivals in the period March 5 (at Seneca by Warfield) to Mar. 12, and one reached Mountain Lake on Mar. 17 (Fran Pope), several contributors remarked on the general scarcity of this species and their inability to find any until the very end of March. Very early Tree Swallows arrived at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Mar. 10 (Danny Bystrak) and at Hughes Hollow in Montgomery County on Mar. 11 (3 birds by Paul Woodward). The earliest Barn Swallow of the year was



sighted in Prince Georges County on Mar. 27 (Leonard Teuber); and the first Purple Martins were found at Denton on Mar. 14 (C. Adams), at Davis Pond in Kent County on Mar. 17 (Floyd Parks), and in Howard County on Mar. 17 (Stephen Simon).

Thrashers, Thrushes. Thrashers became very scarce in January. One Brown Thrasher was observed at Tanyard, Jan. 17-23 (Ethel Engle) and another survived the winter at the East Baltimore feeder of Dot Clark. The first few wandering Am. Robins turned up in the final three days of January, but it was not until after the first little thaw on Feb. 10 that the migration really began. By Mar. 2 the first one reached Mountain Lake Park (Mrs. Pope). Three thousand migrated past Sandy Point on Feb. 24 (Hal Wierenga). A Hermit Thrush seen in Harford County on Mar. 27 was more likely a spring arrival than a winter survivor (John Wortman).

Gnatcatchers and Kinglets. The first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher arrived on Mar. 29 at the Back River Sewage Treatment Plant in East Baltimore (Blom and Ringler). Fran Pope in Garrett County and John Fales in Calvert County complained over the complete lack of Golden-crowned Kinglets; note the large number of other counties in Table 1 that had no reports of this species.

Pipits, Shrikes. Water Pipits responded to the first warm spell by appearing on Feb. 11 at both Sandy Point State Park (Wierenga) and Galts (Parks); subsequent migrants flew past Sandy Point on Feb. 24 (62 birds) and Feb. 27 (16 birds, Wierenga). The first flock of 10 arrived at Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County on Mar. 19 (Mrs. Pope). There were several independent reports of Loggerhead Shrikes, but they all condense down into three individual birds: 1 at Davidsonville on Mar. 7 (Ellen Gizzarelli), 1 in Kent County, Mar. 20-21 (Parks), and 1 at the Back River Sewage Treatment Plant on Mar. 26-27 (Resch, Ringler and others).

Warblers. Early Pine Warblers were seen in Charles County on Mar. 8 (Leonard Teuber) and on Mar. 9 in Prince Georges County (Douglas), and there were two March 30 observations of Louisiana Waterthrushes: at Douglas Point (Karen Miles and others) and at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Danny Bystrak).

Blackbirds and Orioles. For western stragglers there was a Yellow-headed Blackbird north of Easton on Dec. 30, 1976 (Mrs. Lee Mainersman) and there were as many as 3 Brewer's Blackbirds at Churchville: a female on Jan. 23 and 2 females and a male on Jan. 31 (Chuck Graham and John Wortman). In most parts of the State it was hard to distinguish early spring migrant blackbirds from the hordes of wintering individuals; the best efforts, however, are summarized in Table 1. Rick Blom believes that the Rusty Blackbirds that he and Mike Resch saw in Baltimore County on Feb. 25 set a new early arrival date for that county. In Garrett County the first migrating flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were sighted at Mountain Lake Park on Mar. 3 and the first 2 Rusties were found at Mount Nebo Wildlife Management Area on Mar. 17 (Fran Pope). Hal Wierenga witnessed a massive migration of blackbirds crossing Chesapeake Bay from Sandy Point to the Eastern Shore on Feb. 24, --- a day with unstable skies and strong southerly winds. In about 3 hours

he estimated 750,000 Red-wings, 50,000 Common Grackles, 2,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds and 1,000 Starlings. Although Northern Orioles attempted to winter in at least six Maryland counties, the last birds disappeared in early January (Chestertown by Parks; Sandy Point on Jan. 3 and Annapolis on Jan. 5 by Wierenga). There were no reports in February, but 3 Northern Orioles turned up in mid-March as follows: Mar. 9 at the Wolfe's farm in Kent County, a male at Loch Raven on Mar. 12 (Resch), and a bird in Harford County on Mar. 16 (Graham).

Finches. This was a poor finch winter, with no reports of cross-bills or redpolls, and only a single Pine Siskin observation (Mar. 2, Baltimore County, Rick Blom). A male House Finch visited Fran Pope's feeder in Mountain Lake Park with Purple Finches on Feb. 23. A wintering Rose-breasted Grosbeak discovered on Jan. 2 at Reistertown was seen irregularly through Mar. 2 (Glenn Harris, *fide* Blom). Evening Grosbeaks were widely but sparsely distributed, with no flocks of more than 25 individuals.

Sparrows, Longspurs, Snow Bunting. A very early spring Savannah Sparrow appeared at Sandy Point State Park on Feb. 13; by Feb. 27, 10 birds were present (Wierenga). Vesper Sparrows, on the other hand, were late and scarce; none was found until Mar. 16, when Paul Woodward had one at Hughes Hollow. After an absence of a month and a half, a lone Snow Bunting favored Sandy Point with a two-day stop-over, Jan. 26-27 (Wierenga). Across the Bay in Kent County, Floyd Parks found Snow Buntings from Feb. 10 to Feb. 14 2 miles south of Galena at the intersection of Duck Puddle Road and Md. Route 290, with a maximum of 40 on the 12th. On Feb. 10 he found a Lapland Longspur with them, and 2 other Lapland Longspurs in a flock of Horned Larks near Chesterville. One of the longspurs was still present on Feb. 11 (Dorothy Mendinhall). A late Lapland Longspur in a flock of Water Pipits on Mar. 12 was only the second spring sighting for this species at Sandy Point State Park (Wierenga).

I am happy to acknowledge the editorial assistance of Danny Bystrak in this and many previous Season reports. Please send future sightings to Robert F. Ringler, 3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore 21207.

7900 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel 20810



## FINCHES ARE CHARMS

*Robert Devereux*

There are few, if any, languages that possess as extensive a lexicon as English for the simple reason that no other language welcomes the addition of new words with such open arms. English speakers happily are free of the taint of linguistic chauvinism, of the ridiculous insistence on so-called linguistic purism, such as afflicts the French, for example. Thus the number of recognized English words constantly grows apace. Unfortunately, while new words are being added to the English lexicon, others lose their currency and become labeled in dictionaries as "archaic"

or "obsolete" or "dialectal" or "historical only," until such time as lexicographers no longer even bother to include them in their dictionaries.

This deplorable fate has struck many of those English words known as nouns of multitude (hereafter NOM), also known variously as collectives, collective nouns, classifiers, numeratives, company terms, group terms, nouns of assemblage and terms of ventry, in other words, those singular nouns denoting a plurality. When a person speaks of, for example, a *set* of dishes, a *deck* of cards, a *circle* of friends, a *bunch* of flowers, a *cluster* of grapes, a *wad* of bills, etc., he is using a NOM. While the cited NOM's are still in daily use, many others, including specifically those referring to birds in general and to specific varieties of birds, have long since been consigned to limbo. It is these that the writer wishes to discuss.

Most individuals, in speaking of a company of birds, will probably use the term *flock* or, less often, *flight*. Both are quite proper and have been for some centuries, but birdlovers also have quite a few alternatives available if they wish to use them, for example, *dissimulation*, *drift*, *school*, *string* and *troop*. *Pack* is also appropriate if the flock is specifically of wild game birds; and although it is used today almost exclusively in connection with horses, *team* has been since at least 1688 a proper NOM for birds flying in a line. If the flock is a small one, *pod* or *trip* is applicable. A group of young birds (i.e., fledglings or nestlings) constitutes a *fry*.

Some of the ornithological NOM's that have receded into the area of "archaic" or "obsolete" merit wider acquaintance and usage if only because of their beauty and expressiveness. There is an undeniable element of pure poetry in such NOM's as "a *charm* of finches," "an *ascension* of larks" or "an *exaltation* of larks," or "a *murmuration* of starlings," any of which might well have come from the pen of a Keats or Wordsworth, although all date back to the 15th Century. Other NOM's tend to be descriptively ironic or pejorative: an *ostentation* of peacocks (alternatively, peacocks can constitute a *muster*), a *deceit* of lapwings, a *murder* of crows and an *unkindness* of ravens (but ravens can also constitute an *aerie*). And since owls have become a symbol for wisdom, the applicable NOM--*parliament*--seems singularly well-chosen and appropriate.

*Aerie* (*aery*, *eyrie* and *eyry* are recognized variant spellings) is the proper NOM specifically for eagles as well as for birds of prey generally, although hawks and especially hawks in flight form a *cast*. Jays form a *band*, woodpeckers a *descent*, doves a *dole* (earlier forms, dating back to at least 1486, are *dool*, *doole* and *dole*), turtledoves a *pitying*, sparrows a *host*, magpies a *tidings*, nightingales a *watch* and rooks a *building* (or, alternatively, a *parliament*). A company of larks can properly be termed a *bevy*, in addition to the aforementioned *ascension* and *exaltation*. Swallows rate only the generic *flight* and terns the generic *drift*.

Many game birds also have their distinctive NOM's, in some cases several. The best endowed are pheasants, which constitute an *eye*, *nide*,



*nye* or *rye*, although pheasants breaking from cover are none of these but rather a *bouquet*. Game birds in general, when on water, constitute a *raft*, but specifically ducks and geese on water constitute, respectively, a *padding* or *paddling* (*padling* is a variant) and a *gaggle*. (*Gaggle*, which has had currency since at least 1407, is of onomatopoeic origin, deriving from the syllable *gag*, often used to imitate the cry of a goose: cf. Danish *gaggelen* and *gagelen*, German *gackeln* and *gackern*, Middle High German *gāgen*, English *giggle* and *cackle*. It is generally considered to refer more to tame geese of the farmyard than to the wild geese of the hunter's domain, but semantically it is equally appropriate to both. By extension it has come also to mean a company of gossiping women or a group of any noisy individuals. When in flight, ducks and geese form a *skein* (*skean* and *skeane* are accepted variant spellings) or the already cited *team*. With respect to ducks, mallards and teal have their own distinctive NOM's, i.e., *sord* and *spring*, respectively.

As for other game birds, quails and partridges constitute a *covey* or *bevy* (the latter is also the proper NOM for a group of young women); a snipe a *walk* or *wisp*; plovers a *congregation*; grouse a *brood*; woodcocks a *fall*; herons and bitterns a *sedge* (*siege* is a variant); storks a *mustering*; and turkeys a *rafter*. No doubt a careful search of the dictionaries would reveal others.

Whether they be poetic or prosaic, descriptive or uninspired, obscure or well known, these semantic treasures should be known to every bird-lover, every ornithologist. He may perhaps seldom have occasion to use them; but if he does or if he encounters them in print, he should instantly recognize them for what they are: some of the forgotten/neglected semantical contributions that the world of birds has made to the English lexicon.

2042 Peach Orchard Drive, Apt. 618  
Falls Church, Virginia 22043



## FIRST RECORDS FOR THE THIN-BILLED MURRE IN MARYLAND, WITH A SUMMARY OF ALCID OBSERVATIONS FOR THE WINTER OF 1976-1977

Richard A. Rowlett

Three Thin-billed Murres (*Uria aalge*) were observed in Maryland's Atlantic Ocean waters in December 1976, and January 1977, constituting the first records for the State.

The first was discovered on December 29, 1976, in the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co., 38°20'N, 75°06'W, by Jay Sheppard and several other participants on the Ocean City Christmas Count, from the north side of the Inlet. Anne Lacy, Malcolm Ross, Steve Whitcomb, and I were simultaneously counting on the north tip of Assateague Island, when through the wind and light falling snow, I spotted Jay waving and shouting to us from across the Inlet, and pointing frantically to the murre, which was then just off the northwest tip of the island. I photographed

the bird as it swam within 5 meters of us on its way out of the Inlet and out of sight.

Paul DuMont presumably observed the same bird in addition to an oiled Razorbill (*Alca torda*) late on the following afternoon. His description (*Md. Birdlife* 33:12-13) matches ours, except that I felt that the thin black streak which projected back from the eye was rather conspicuous.

Steve Whitcomb and I saw two other Thin-billed Murres from a sport fishing headboat which was fishing on "Jackspot," a wreck and popular shoal for sport fishermen in 14 meters of water, 35 km SE of Ocean City, 38°05'N, 74°46'W, on January 16, 1977. The first was seen on the water at about 5 meters from the boat as we were slowly getting into position to drop anchor. This bird was brown to grayish brown dorsally, and the thin dark streak projecting backward from the eye through the field of white on the rear face was evident, although less obvious than that on the jet black-backed bird at the Ocean City Inlet on December 29. The second Thin-billed Murre was seen in flight at about 350 meters, and was identified by its brownish gray dorsum and small loon-like profile. Several Razorbills that were also seen flying in the vicinity differed markedly from the murre by their blackish dorsum, and stocky rectangular profile in flight.

On January 9, 1977, Steve and I observed and photographed a Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) in the surf, on Assateague Island, Worcester Co., about 6 km south of the Ocean City Inlet, 38°16'N, 75°08'W. This murre was studied for about 20 minutes at 30 meters. It was black, tinted slightly with brown above including the sides of the face, and white below. The bill tapered from a thick base to a dull point and appeared somewhat shorter than the long, straight bill of the Thin-billed. A horizontal white streak was present on the lower mandible near the gape.

Razorbills were rather numerous in the shallow nearshore waters off Ocean City, from mid-January to mid-February. A total of 106 were counted on 3 short pelagic trips during this period, most in 10 to 30 meters of water, 8 to 32 km from shore. On January 16 and February 5, 28 and 25 were counted respectively in the vicinity of the "Jackspot." Ron Naveen and I counted 53 on a "slick," calm, February 12, 16 to 26 km NE of Ocean City, between 38°22'N, 74°53'W and 38°25'N, 74°46'W.

In many instances, the Razorbills were observed in small flocks resting on the water with small complements of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*). Since the fishing was very poor on February 12, the fishermen and the Captain agreed to spend some time "going out of the way" to look at the Razorbills. In each instance when the boat approached the small flocks, ranging from 6 to 10 individuals, the Razorbills positioned themselves, forming a straight line perpendicular to our approach, and slowly swam away with their heads and tails cocked upward. As the gap between us narrowed to about 30 meters, all of the Razorbills simultaneously dove. About two out of three were winter adults and had large rectangular bills with white vertical marks near the tips.

The winter of 1976-1977 witnessed a major eruption of thousands of Thick-billed Murres and Razorbills along the New England coast (Vickery 1977, *Am. Birds* 31:307). Very few of the murres straggled south from the colder waters off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with the Assateague Island sighting representing the only one for Maryland.

The invasion of Razorbills off Maryland is the largest ever recorded for the State. The last observation was of a single bird on March 5, 70 km E of Ocean City, 38°20'N, 74°10'W.

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and Dovekie (*Alle alle*) were not a feature of the winter's alcid flight. None of the former were seen, and of the latter, only 6 were observed on February 12, and 1 on March 5.

715 Main Street #5, Laurel 20810

\*

## EDWARD G. DAVIS, WINNER OF FIRST MOS SCIENCE AWARD

As a new project of the MOS Education Committee, recognition was given to the student who exhibited the best ornithology project in a Maryland Science Fair. Edward G. Davis, a senior at Perry Hall Senior High School, was selected as winner.



His project, "Observations of Weight Fluctuation as Determined by Winter Feeding Habits in the Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*," won him the MOS Outstanding Achievement in Ornithology certificate, membership in MOS, and an autographed copy of Birds of North America.

His abstract reads: "A flock of backyard American Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) was investigated during the month of February 1977 near Perry Hall, Maryland. The birds were captured and weighed during sampling periods throughout the day, and weight fluctuations of individual birds were noted. It was observed that the Tree Sparrow increased in weight during the day, from their early morning low and reached a maximum weight in the late afternoon."

Mr. Davis subsequently responded to requests to display his project at meetings of MOS, Eastern Bird Banding Assn. and Audubon Naturalist Soc.

#### CONTENTS, JUNE 1977

First Nesting of Hooded Merganser on Maryland's Eastern Shore	Franklin Loughry & Tad Wheatley	55
Report of the State-wide Bird Count - May 7, 1977	C. Douglas Hackman	56
1977 Convention Summary	Charles Vaughn	68
Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 14, 1977	Helen M. Ford	71
Bluebird Project Annual Report	Lawrence Zeleny	73
Annual Report of the Treasurer	W. Gordon MacGregor	74
Auditing Committee Report	Rodney B. Jones	75
Conservation Easement Committee Report	Julia A. Metcalf	76
Education Committee Report	Ben Poscover	76
Library Committee Report	Joy Wheeler	76
Long Range Planning Committee Report	James Cheevers	77
Research Committee Report	Charles Vaughn	77
Sanctuary Committee Report	V. E. Unger	78
Scholarship Committee Report	Mildred E. Gebhard	78
Annual Reports of Local Chapters	Chapter Presidents	79
Announcements		91
The Season--January, February, March, 1977	Chandler Robbins	92
Finches are Charms	Robert Devereux	103
First Records for the Thin-billed Murre in Maryland	Richard Rowlett	105
Edward G. Davis, Winner of First MOS Science Award		107

#### MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.  
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds of Maryland

Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel,  
Md. 20810 (725-1176)  
Asst. Editor: C. Douglas Hackman, 3033 Woodside Ave., Balto. 21234  
Art Editor: William N. Schneider  
Production: Romell Decker  
Mailing: Barbara Larrabee and committee